01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Western Spirits

Distinct labels, shared connections, individual whiskey identities.

A portfolio can connect very different drinking experiences. Western Spirits brings Calumet Farm, Bird Dog and Sam Houston into one family, alongside other spirits brands. The useful question is how each label develops its own character. Follow the release, the people and the documented production role to see those connections clearly.



Company established: 2008, according to the dated 2017 partnership announcement.

Two kinds of beginnings

Bird Dog dates its flavored-whiskey beginning to 2010. Sam Houston’s brand also dates to 2010, with numbered releases giving mature bourbon a distinct identity. These modern beginnings sit beside older namesakes whose history supplies context for the labels.

Selection is a contribution

A 2019 Sam Houston announcement credits Steve Nally, John Hargrove and the Bardstown Bourbon Company team with curating twelve-year bourbon. Selecting mature barrels is a meaningful role. It does not establish that those barrels were originally distilled at that newer facility.

Watercolors are symbolic interpretations, not exact buildings or documentary portraits.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

History has several starting lines



1924 / Farm heritage Calumet Farm begins. Its racing history precedes the bourbon brand.

1948 / A second crown Citation wins the Triple Crown for Calumet, following Whirlaway’s earlier achievement.

2016 / Bourbon joins Bird Dog An 86-proof small-batch bourbon announcement predates the later Select Reserve.

2025 / Two new chapters Calumet announces its Centennial collection. Bird Dog introduces Select Reserve Kentucky straight bourbon.

Read the place by its role

Company home: Bowling Green. Calumet Farm near Lexington supplies racing heritage. Bardstown and Three Springs identify separate production and bottling roles on Calumet’s sixteen-year specifications. A city and a bottler do not identify an unnamed original distillery.

The complete website follows fourteen illustrated milestones and the wider producer story.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Read the whiskey, then the story

Calumet’s Single Rack Black batches draw nineteen barrels from one center-cut rack. Storage position and selection become part of the release’s identity. That invites comparison between editions, while differences between batches make a simple age-versus-flavor experiment unreliable.



The Centennial rye changes direction with 91% rye and 9% malted barley. Bird Dog Blackberry takes another path, presenting an 80-proof flavored whiskey. Shared family membership leaves room for distinctly different recipes and drinking occasions.

Calumet’s Whirlaway account recalls trainer Ben Jones altering a blinker before the 1941 Kentucky Derby. It is memorable racing lore, retold by the bourbon brand. The horse’s achievement supplies a tribute, rather than a whiskey-production date.

Research notes & linked sources

Research: October 15, 2026. Historical roles retain their dates. Undisclosed origins remain open questions; upcoming releases remain plans.

[1] Company home
[2] Brand portfolio
[3] 2017 partnership
[4] Calumet brand
[5] Farm history
[6] Bird Dog history
[7] Sam Houston brand
[8] Lexington brand
[9] 2016 bourbon
[10] 2019 curation
[11] 2020 release
[12] 2021 release
[13] Centennial launch
[14] Select Reserve launch
[15] Production FAQ
[16] Rack selection
[17] Citation specifications
[18] Whirlaway story
[19] Trophy decanter
[20] Seventeen-year decanter
[21] Centennial rye
[22] Origin release
[23] Blackberry whiskey
[24] Current bourbon
[25] Bird Dog portfolio
[26] Release program
[27] Small Batch Reserve
[28] Conservation partnership
[29] Citation history
[30] Wright biography