

On February 12, 2016, a group of friends gathered to embark on a journey. A journey to discover their next favorite whiskey, if they like whiskey, or just partake in the event (because we're so much fun to hang out with.) Six whiskeys were blindly presented, sniffed, tasted and discussed. Not everyone agreed on everything, which was where it got interesting. The results are provided for you, in the order they were presented to our group, to use as a guide in your own journey.

BRAND	BACKGROUND	NOSE	PALATE	FINISH	ORDER OF APPEAL
<b>High West Bourye Whiskey</b>	<p>Park City, Utah / Aged 10-16 years</p> <p>Crafted from a blend of rich bourbons that have matured for a minimum of nine years, and extraordinary rye whiskies that have matured for ten and sixteen years old.</p>	<p>Apple Honey Pear Floral Perfume Brown Sugar</p>	<p>Woody Nutty Caramel Vanilla</p>	<p>Harsh Scotch taste, then very smooth</p> <p>Thin</p> <p>Did not taste like bourbon</p>	<b>4</b> LEAST LIKED
<b>Breckenridge Bourbon Whiskey</b>	<p>Breckenridge, Colorado / Aged 3 years</p> <p>The distillery, which is only 4,000 square feet itself, is situated 9,600 feet above sea level, making it the highest distillery in the world. Breckenridge's master distiller ferments a mash of 56% corn, 38% rye and 6% malted barley in an open-top Scottish fermenter before distilling it twice through a \$140,000, 550-gallon, Vendome copper-pot still originally made in Kentucky. After distillation, the bourbon is aged at 120 proof in American white oak casks with a number 3 char for approximately three years and is then brought to proof using pure Rocky Mountain snowmelt from atop Mount Quandry, which has a 14,000 foot peak.</p> <p>This bourbon scored 1 point higher than Pappy Van Winkle's 23 Year Old Bourbon at the Ultimate Spirits Challenge in 2012.</p>	<p>Sweet Honeysuckle</p> <p>Floral Soft</p>	<p>Harsh</p> <p>Smoother, easier to drink than High West</p> <p>Smoked Wood Peatty</p>	<p>Filmy</p> <p>Tastes like Old #7</p> <p>Tastes blended (copy of Scotch)</p> <p>Silky Light Aged Longer</p>	<b>4</b> LEAST LIKED
<b>Blade and Bow Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey</b>	<p>Louisville, Kentucky / Aged Unknown</p> <p>Blade and Bow Kentucky Straight Bourbon is crafted using a solera-aging, a process typically reserved for aging cognacs, ports and sherries. This is done to preserve the precious original stock of Stitzel-Weller, which is mingled with other fine whiskies during the solera process, during which a series of casks are filled at different intervals over a long period of time (in fact, Blade and Bow Kentucky Straight Bourbon contains the oldest remaining stock of whiskey distilled at Stitzel-Weller, and will be the last available liquid for sale that was distilled at the original distillery).</p> <p>As whiskey from the oldest cask is emptied and bottled, the cask is re-filled with an equivalent amount of whiskey from the second-oldest cask in the solera. This cascading effect continues until the youngest cask in the solera is filled with new whiskey. As a result, no cask in the solera is ever fully emptied. In addition, as the younger whiskey ages and cascades through the solera, its average age and complexity gradually increases over time.</p>	<p>Pear</p> <p>Caramel</p> <p>Orange</p>	<p>Felt the purest/not blended</p> <p>Peppery and sweet</p>	<p>Easy, light</p> <p>Soft linger</p> <p>Charcoal</p> <p>Sharper</p>	<b>1</b> TIE

BRAND	BACKGROUND	NOSE	PALATE	FINISH	ORDER OF APPEAL
<b>Hirsch Small Batch Reserve Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey</b>	<p>Bardstown, Kentucky / Aged 4-6 years</p> <p>A Kentucky straight bourbon that has been aged in new, charred American oak barrels for at least four years and is bottled at 92 proof.</p> <p>Named after Adolf Hirsch, a former executive of the Schenley Co. who bought some aging barrels of bourbon from the famed Michter's Distillery Distillery before it closed in 1988, Hirsch Small Batch Reserve earned the Double Gold Medal at the The Fifty Best Tasting Competition in 2012 and the Silver Medal at the WSWA Tasting Competition in 2011. In addition, it earned five stars from F. Paul Pacult's Spirit Journal, which described it as "an incredible steal."</p>	<p>Flower</p> <p>Lemon zest</p> <p>Caramel</p>	<p>Closer to Scotch flavor</p> <p>Peat</p> <p>More bite</p> <p>Cherries</p> <p>Deep flavor</p>	<p>Complex finish</p> <p>Layered viscosity</p> <p>Bold, more body</p>	<b>1 TIE</b>
<b>Bib &amp; Tucker Small Batch Bourbon Whiskey</b>	<p>Sonoma, California / Aged 6-7.5 years</p> <p>Crafted from a mash of 70% corn, 26% rye and 4% malted barley. The grains, which were harvested in late 2006 and early 2007, were distilled twice - first through a column still and then through an old fashioned copper pot still. Following distillation, the bourbon was matured in No. 1 charred American white oak barrels for a minimum of six years (the average age of the bourbon is actually 7.5 years, however).</p>	<p>Hickory</p> <p>Citrus</p> <p>Nutty</p> <p>Peachy</p>	<p>Woodsy</p> <p>Warming</p> <p>Buttery w/ purpose</p>	<p>Punched in the throat</p> <p>Not a big fan</p> <p>Favorite</p>	<b>2</b>
<b>Joseph Magnus Inaugural Edition Bourbon Whiskey</b>	<p>Washington, DC / Aged 8 years</p> <p>Joseph Magnus Straight Bourbon Whiskey is a marriage of bourbon aged in white oak and finished in Oloroso Sherry, Pedro Ximénez Sherry, and Cognac casks—for a wholly unique flavor profile that's worthy of the Magnus name.</p>	<p>Spicy</p> <p>Syrupy</p> <p>Maple</p> <p>Butterscotch</p> <p>Complex</p> <p>Opening up</p>	<p>Taste much different from scent</p> <p>Harsh</p> <p>Tastes like they added a flavor</p> <p>Artificial</p>	<p>More burn, finishes nicely,</p> <p>Sharp</p> <p>Finish becomes more pleasant as the whiskey breathes</p>	<b>3</b>