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Whisky Advocate Award: American Whiskey of the Year

Four Roses 2013 Limited Edition Small Batch, 51.5%, \$85

This is the second year in a row for **Four Roses** to receive this honor, and it's well-deserved.



To be honest, I didn't think Four Roses could ever improve on last year's limited edition small batch release—let alone the very next year—but they did.

With five different yeast strains and two different mashbills at their disposal, they certainly have the potential to make great bourbon with a variety of flavor profiles. And with the esteemed master distiller Jim Rutledge overseeing things, I'm never surprised when I taste a great Four Roses bourbon.

This particular release, however, is the finest bourbon I've ever tasted from Four Roses. It's a marriage of 18 year old bourbon and two different 13 year old bourbons, each with a different combination of yeast strains and mashbills.

It's mature, yet very elegant whiskey, with a silky texture that's so easy to embrace with a splash of water. It exudes balanced notes of honeyed vanilla, soft caramel, a basket of complex orchard fruit, blackberry, papaya, and a dusting of cocoa and nutmeg. The finish is

pleasing and very smooth. It's sophisticated and stylish, with well-defined flavors. A true classic! Four Roses celebrates their 125th anniversary of distilling in style. —*John Hansell*

We will announce the Canadian Whisky of the Year tomorrow.

2 Responses to “Whisky Advocate Award: American Whiskey of the Year”

Stefan Bing says:

[December 12, 2013 at 9:24 am](#)

I knew this bottle would win this award the second I popped it open. Truly sublime stuff. I know I saw Mr. Hansell make a comment somewhere that seemed to place the 125th Anniversary Small Batch not only the best bourbon of 2013, but among the best of all time (or at least equal to some of the “unicorn” bottles some people covet). It's at that level to me, too. Among the top 3 reasons to live in Lexington, Kentucky is to be so close to Four Roses.

Long live Jim Rutledge!

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OudErnest says:

[December 12, 2013 at 12:56 pm](#)

I tried this at Whiskeyfest and agree that it is superb but wish it was easier to find.

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