

16 Whiskeys You Should Own

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(illustration: Elizabeth Reyes)

Looking for the perfect bottle of **bourbon** or **rye**? We asked top bartending and spirits industry professionals to tell us which bottles they love and why.

Heads up: The numerical order below is organized alphabetically, not by importance or quality; it's a list, not a ranking. Prices are averages and can vary state to state.

1: **Angel's Envy Rye (\$83)**

"The Caribbean rum cask finish on the Angels Envy rye provides a succulent sweet sherry-like finish on the spicy rye."—Craig Schoettler, beer curator at **Beerhaus** and director of spirits, wine and beer at **ARIA Resort & Casino** in Las Vegas

2: **Barrell Batch 011 Bourbon (\$81)**

"Barrell is an independent bottler that's sourcing some really great whiskey as single barrels and small batches at barrel proof. Batch #011 bourbon was a standout in a recent blind tasting."—Erik Adkins, bar manager of **Hard Water** in San Francisco

3: **Blanton's the Original Single Barrel Bourbon (\$55)**

"Since the first time I had ever tasted this amazing bourbon, it has remained one of my favorites and certainly always will. It's rich and full flavored, with orange peel and clove aromas. A classic treat, balanced with citrus, sweet grains, sugar and spice."—Logan E. Rushing, head bartender and whiskey curator for **The Stanley Hotel** in Estes Park, Colo.

4: **Four Roses Elliott's Select Barrel Strength Limited Edition Kentucky Straight Bourbon (\$396)**

"Elliot's Select, if you can find it, a beautiful expression boasting a 14-year-old whiskey, is everything you want from a world-class bourbon. Peach, nutmeg, vanilla and maple are only a few characteristics of the pleasantly complex bourbon."—Craig Schoettler, beer curator at Beerhaus and director of spirits, wine and beer at ARIA Resort & Casino

5: **Four Roses Single Barrel (\$43)**

"It's accessible and classy. People know the brand but not necessarily this one. It has character and a little punch but also sweet and liked all around."—Marcel Simoneau, owner of **Noorman's Kil** in New York City

6: **Henry McKenna 10 Year Bottled-in-Bond Single Barrel Bourbon (\$32)**

"Bourbon carrying an age statement is quickly becoming collectors-only territory, available in small quantities and



demanding big bucks. Thank goodness for this bottle—quality and affordability in spades.”—Beau Williams, owner and bartender at [Julep](#) in Kansas City, Mo.

7: [Leopold Bros. Maryland-Style Rye](#) (\$48)

“This highlights the pre-Prohibition production of a less aggressive, gentler, more mild spiced/subtle flavor to start with a youthful, spiced zestful, berry feeling, rounded out with a peppery, clove/smoked cinnamon.”—Shanna L. Sweeney, sales and marketing coordinator at [Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa](#) in Colorado



8: [Maker's Mark Private Select Bourbon](#) (\$70)

“I may be a little partial to the Stoke Edition of this one, as this is the barrel I was able to create with the team at [Maker's Mark](#) specifically for our restaurant. So you may not be able to get it, but the Maker's Mark Private Select would make a solid substitute.”—Sean Potter, head of “eat and drink” at [Stoke](#) in Charlotte, N.C.



9: [Old Forester Birthday Kentucky Straight Bourbon](#) (\$350)

“The nose reminds you of sitting in a battered leather chair in a library, which leaves you floored by the palate's powerful confectionary notes laced around stewed fruit and perfectly integrated oak. Happy birthday indeed!”—Joaquín Simó, partner and bartender at [Pouring Ribbons](#) in New York City



12: [Russell's Reserve Single Barrel Rye](#) (\$57)

“This is a wonderfully bold rye with all the spiciness you would expect with the complexity of a single barrel. It's like drinking three different whiskeys from beginning, middle and end.”—Nick Elliott, general manager at [Whiskey Kitchen](#) in Nashville



13: [WhistlePig 12 Year Old World](#) (\$119)

“A great blend of three different finished WhistlePigs giving a balanced and unique rye experience.”—Mike Raymond, co-founder at [Reserve 101](#) in Houston

14: [Willett Pot Still Reserve Bourbon](#) (\$48)

“From Willett Distillery, it's a great bourbon that comes in an ornate pot-still-shaped bottle, which is just made for celebration.”—Bill Thomas, owner or [Jack Rose Dining Saloon](#) in Washington, D.C.



15: [W.L. Weller 12 Year Wheated Kentucky Straight Bourbon](#) (\$172)

“It's a soft, balanced bourbon from the addition of wheat to the traditional bourbon mash. It's also very complex.”—Masa Urushido, bar manager at [Saxon + Parole](#) in New York City

16: [Woodford Reserve Double Oaked Bourbon](#) (\$57)

“I find this newer expression of [Woodford](#) to be exceptional in a crowd of bourbons

trying to do unique things with wood. It has layers of complexity that make it very unique and delicious.”—H. Joseph Ehrmann, proprietor at [Elixir](#) in San Francisco



