



ELIJAH CRAIG 12 YEARS OLD

Barrel Proof B522 | Kentucky Bourbon

Barrel Proof B522 is the second batch of 2022 in Heaven Hill's flagship cask-strength programme — a 12-year-old Kentucky Straight bottled uncut and unfiltered at 60.5% volume (121 proof). The full expression of a dozen years in new charred American oak: concentrated, powerful, structured. **MATURATION:** a small batch of barrels hand-selected by Master Distiller Conor O'Driscoll from Heaven Hill's deep reserves, vatted but otherwise untouched — no chill-filtration, no caramel colouring, no proofing-down with water. The Barrel Proof series releases three batches per year (A, B, C); B522 is the spring 2022 batch, a snapshot of how that selection of 12-year casks tasted at that moment. **SERVING:** at cask strength, neat is the start; a small splash of cool water brings the entry under control without flattening the architecture. The high proof rewards an Old Fashioned built strong (a single sugar cube, two dashes Angostura, an orange peel — no muddling), and a bold Manhattan with La Quintinye Vermouth Royal Rouge. At the table the bottle pairs with smoked brisket, peanut brittle, an aged cheddar, or a Nicaraguan habano-seed cigar where weight meets weight.

Tasting notes

Color

Deep mahogany, caramelised highlights.

Aroma

Caramel, honey, roasted stone fruit, oak, vanilla, baking spice, char-mark intensity.

Taste

Powerful — oak, caramel, orange zest, warm spice. Proof felt but integrated.

Finish

Long, warming — oak, spice, fruit, subtle leather.

HEAVEN HILL DISTILLERY Bardstown, Kentucky — and the largest independent family-owned distilled-spirits producer in the United States, in continuous Shapira-family ownership since 1935. Heaven Hill's Bernheim distillery in Louisville produces Evan Williams, Larceny, Elijah Craig, and over fifty other American whiskey labels; the warehouses on Bardstown's limestone plateau hold one of the deepest mature-stock reserves in American whiskey. The Elijah Craig label honours the Baptist preacher whom legend credits with the first charring of oak barrels — the foundational discovery of bourbon.