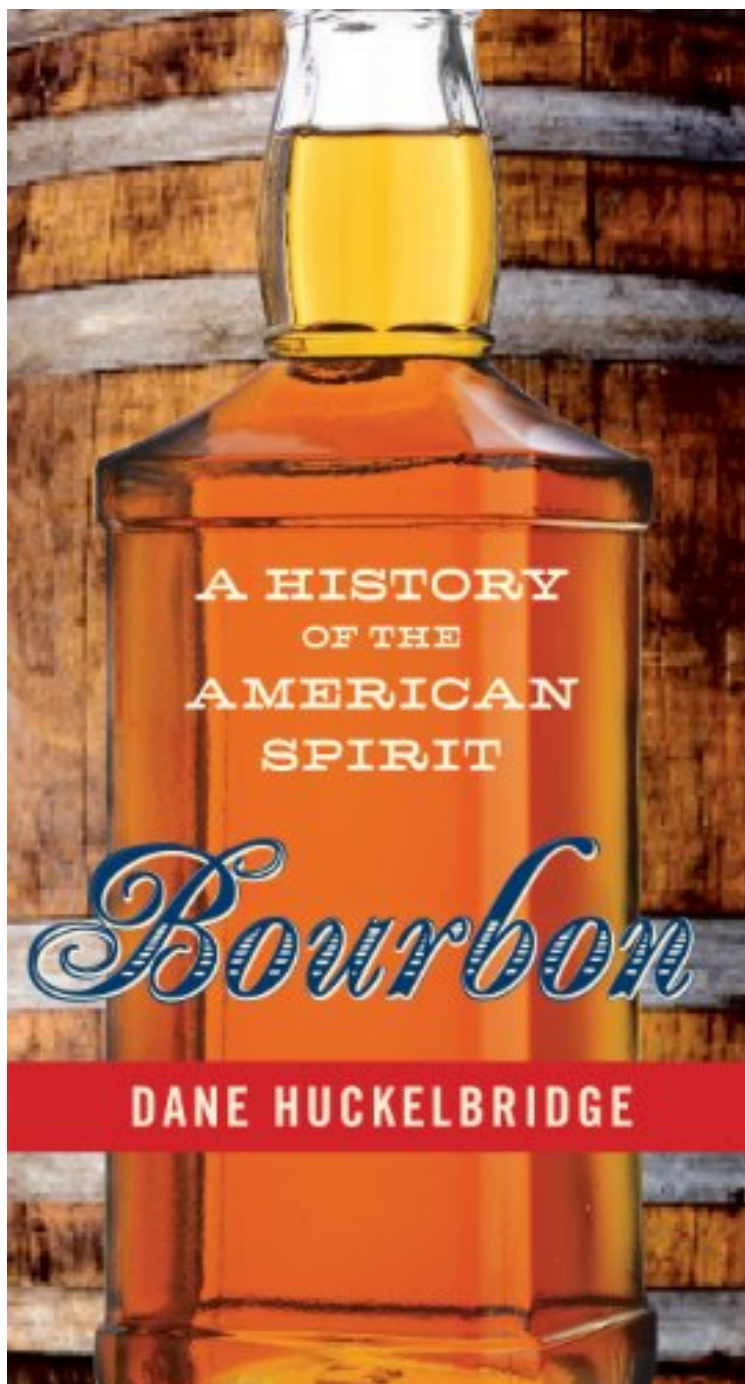


(Download free ebook) Bourbon: A History of the American Spirit

Bourbon: A History of the American Spirit

Dane Huckelbridge

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Dane Huckelbridge : Bourbon: A History of the American Spirit before purchasing it in order to gage whether or

not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bourbon: A History of the American Spirit:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. '51% Corn'By VA Duck"Bourbon: A History..." by author Dane Huckelbridge lives up to its title - chronicling the corn-based spirit from the beginning of "hard spirits" at the hands of Raymond Lull in 1265 to bourbon's (trendy) "small batch" distillations. Once free of historic connection to generic 'spirits' the book follows the life of American Bourbon from George Thorpe's 'letter' in 1620 (1st documented reference) into the "Whiskey Rebellion" of 1791, through "The Great Experiment" of Prohibition to the modern resurgence of high quality small-batch bourbons. Huckelbridge insists on a 'swaggering' (?) style in his prose that at first captivates, then becomes annoying and finally ends at the Epilogue in guarded acceptance given to a good story, well told. Here is an excerpt containing the style, be the judge of its entertainment value to you because there are ~288 pages of this:"Almost mind you. Because before bourbon can settle its spurs fully in the modern world, there are still a few wild corners of the country left to be tamed, and still a fair number of whiskey drinkers out on the range who know more about six-shooters than they do about stock prices. And thanks to the new fangled railroads, getting there is only a hop, skip, and a few whistle stops away. So saddle up and get ready, because the west didn't get Wild by sipping Coca Cola, and America didn't cut its teeth on Dentyne gum. Long before there was a car in every driveway and a chicken in every pot, there was a saloon on every corner and a bullet with your name on it. Hi-yo, bourbon! Away!" (pg.143, loc. 1566) (even the text is 'at least 51% corn'.)The read is punctuated with a good number of illustrations that add interest and tie the text to the nostalgic past. You will, however, be disappointed if you expect a 'technical' education on bourbon, details such as: variances in the recipe, the distiller's art, specific effects of aging, the nature of the oak's chemical contribution, the analysis and comparison of its modern examples, etc., are not here (or very lightly treated). (For that, Cowdery's Bourbon, Straight: The Uncut and Unfiltered Story of American Whiskey is much better.) More about the 'concoction' of the spirit itself and a bit less of its cobweb filled ancestry might have made this read more fulfilling. In any event, this is a recommended read, but take the title literally - this is a HISTORY of Bourbon - the All-American corn mash whiskey.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Straight up or on the rocks - and always in moderation, please!By Phil (not) in MagnoliaIf you're going to enjoy it, you might as well also understand something about the history and evolution of it - that pretty much sums up my objective in picking up a book such as this one. I actually don't drink bourbon very often, but it's fascinating to me how there are so many different producers of the various kinds of whiskeys and other alcoholic beverages, and how something that can be produced relatively easily can vary so much in taste and apparent quality (the basic concepts for producing bourbon or pretty much any other kind of distilled spirit have been known for hundreds of years).This is an enjoyable book to read for someone looking for that kind of information. The author begins at the beginning - in this case it happens to be in the year 1265 when the first discovery was made that led to the development of distilling processes and the variations in liqueurs that we enjoy today. But the focus on the book is the history of the development of bourbon in the United States, in the Appalachian mountains (I didn't know that the famous Hatfield and McCoy feuds were related to bourbon, but it turns out that they were). It continues to the present day, where we have both the very large producers of bourbon (Jim and Jack, of course) as well as the growing numbers of small batch producers, boutique operations that market their brews as 'special' and attempt to command accordingly higher prices.Enjoyable and informative, worth reading from a historical perspective as well as for the bourbon connoisseur's bookshelf (or kindle library, as the case may be).0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Conversational story of the history of bourbon within the history of AmericaBy Stratiotes Doxha TheonA conversational style gives us a fast-moving story of bourbon's history woven within the history of America. It is an enjoyable story of some of the twists and turns that shaped the American whiskey from the rough early unassuming brew to the aged and refined bourbon we know today. Along the way we meet some of the characters in American history that affected and were affected by these developments.

ldquo;THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF BOURBON.rdqo;mdash;Sacramento BeeA Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance BestsellerA ROLLICKING BIOGRAPHY OF BOURBON WHISKEY THAT DOUBLES AS ldquo;A COMPLEX AND ENTERTAININGrdquo; (WALL STREET JOURNAL) HISTORY OF AMERICA ITSELFFew products are so completely or intimately steeped in the American story as bourbon whiskey. As Dane Huckelbridge's masterfully crafted history reveals, the iconic amber spirit is the American experience, distilled, aged, and sealed in a bottle.

ldquo;[A] raucously entertaining history. ... Drink deeply from Huckelbridgersquo;s free-flowing stories, and yoursquo;ll soon be besotted with the honeyed history of bourbon.rdqo; (Publishers Weekly)ldquo;A mirthful, erudite appreciation of bourbon and its striking history. hellip; [An] entertaining tour drsqo;horizon of bourbonsquo;s birth and long, healthy life. hellip; Huckelbridge knows his bourbon. hellip; A snappy history of the popular spiritsquo;s rise and continued ascent.rdqo; (Kirkus s)ldquo;A wonderfully entertaining look at American history as seen through the lens of Kentuckysquo;s famous brown water. A must read.rdqo; (BILL SAMUELS, JR., President Emeritus of Maker's Mark Distillery and 4th generation Kentucky bourbon maker)ldquo;Made from New

World corn and Old World techniques, Bourbon is the American Spirit. Dane Hucklebridge takes readers on an intoxicating romp through the history of bourbon from its humble colonial origins to its craft-driven current revival. (EDWARD J. LARSON, Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History) A witty and informative account of America's much-loved national beverage. Dane Huckelbridge is the sage of sour-mash. (JOHN BAXTER, author of The Perfect Meal: In Search of the Lost Tastes of France and The Most Beautiful Walk in the World) Pour three fingers, crack open Dane Huckelbridge's Bourbon, and prepare to be taken along on a strange tale of moonshiners, gun-slingers, hair-metal bands, and Brooklyn hipsters. The results: smooth. (PAGAN KENNEDY, New York Times Magazine columnist) Refreshingly entertaining. ... Tells our nation's entire tale with a big splash of Kentucky's finest. Yours;ll learn a f*ckload about the Pilgrims, the Founding Fathers, the Civil War, the Wild West and beyond, and yours;ll actually enjoy it. (MTV.com) Informative. ... What part hasn't bourbon played in American history? And what does that corn-based spirit say about this country's character? Huckelbridge has done a well-researched but laid-back job answering. (Memphis Flyer) Sure, you might have enjoyed a sip of bourbon before. Possibly on Bourbon Street. While eating a bourbon-glazed pork chop and wearing bourbon-scented aftershave. But until you read this 288-page historical treatise on the amber nectar, yours;ll never know the whole story. (UrbanDaddy) An engrossing song to America through an alcoholic beverage. (Washington Post) Lets; raise a glass to Dan Huckelbridge for putting together the definitive history of bourbon, the penultimate American whiskey. (Sacramento Bee) Bourbon would be a delightful companion to take along on a trip to... the great Kentucky distilleries. (Cleveland.com) Although Bourbon is most certainly a history book, you won't even realize [it]. That's because Dane Huckelbridge brings bourbon to life with the sort of witty, character-rich zeal AMC writers might employ if they took over the History Channel. (Toledo Blade) Bourbon the book, like bourbon the drink, has a special spirit. ... Lighthearted, friendly, easy to take and enjoy. ... Try it; yours;ll like it. (Lincoln Journal Star) From the Back Cover THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF BOURBON. — Sacramento Bee A Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Bestseller A ROLLICKING BIOGRAPHY OF BOURBON WHISKEY THAT DOUBLES AS A COMPLEX AND ENTERTAINING HISTORY OF AMERICA ITSELF Few products are so completely or intimately steeped in the American story as bourbon whiskey. As Dane Huckelbridge's masterfully crafted history reveals, the iconic amber spirit is the American experience, distilled, aged, and sealed in a bottle. About the Author Dane Huckelbridge hails from the American Middle West and studied history at Princeton University. His writing has appeared in Tin House, The New Republic, and New Delta ; he is at work on a new book tracing the history of beer in America.