

**Buffalo Trace
Experimental Collection
#7 Heavy Char Barrel
45%**

There's a reason why bourbon distillers don't char their barrels to this intensity. Aged over 15 years, this is a bold whiskey, with lovely honeyed fruit and creamy vanilla on the nose and palate. But it's bullied by the charred oak, brandishing oak tannins and leather, along with background tobacco and over-roasted nuts. Dry, charred oak finish. There's a lovely sweetness that does challenge all this charred oak, but it eventually loses the battle. Price is per 375ml.

—Vol. 22, #2