



Cornell Law Students - Bourbon Tasting Panel Ratings



The History:

During our first year of law school, Wednesday's were our worst day. We had half our classes Monday through Wednesday and the other half from Wednesday through Friday. Wednesday's, then, had a bit too much Civil Procedure, Property, Contracts and Criminal Law. My friend Randy had visited his soon-to-be ex-girlfriend in Scotland over winter break and had come back with various scotches. Given our stressful Wednesdays, he and I started having a drink together every Wednesday. During finals, however, Whiskey Wednesday became Whiskey-Day.

I thought that I liked bourbon more than scotch and since he thought he preferred scotch, we decided to sample and compare. By the end of the year, we decided that we both preferred American Whiskey. This year, with a few more participants in tow, we decided to all chip in and sample the best bourbons. Plus, we figured that if we drank higher quality on Whiskey Wednesday, we would avoid the less pleasurable Hangover Thursday (as one of our professors who joined us one night can attest).*Jesse D*

The Whiskeys:

- Wild Turkey 101
- Makers Mark
- Booker's
- Blantons
- Evan Williams Single Barrel
- Old Protrero Straight Rye
- Woodford Reserve
- Jack Daniels Single Barrel
- McCarthy's Oregon Single Malt

The Verdict:

Wild Turkey 101: (101 proof) Described as the Clint Eastwood of Whiskeys, the strong sense of leather and tobacco was a bit too much for us. We were looking for the John Cusack of Whiskeys. We only drank this on the rocks, as none of us were ready to try it neat.

Makers Mark: (90 proof) My personal favorite. Very smooth and almost creamy with a light taste. Doesn't use rye, so it tastes a bit lighter. On the rocks or neat.

Bookers (125 proof). The strongest whiskey we tried. Very full flavor—almost barbeque or meat like. Be careful, it goes to your head quickly. Best on the rocks.

Blantons (93 proof). Not as sweet as some of the others—has a little bit spicy kick. Still easy to drink though.

Evan Williams Single Barrel (86 proof). Lighter and sweeter than the other we tasted. Very smooth and easy to drink, but perhaps less complex tasting.

Old Protrero Straight Rye (90 proof). Made as a rye in a style that pre-dates bourbon. Has a strong taste of anise. It's interesting, but not something I would drink regularly.

Woodford Reserve (90 proof). Very smooth and mello. *Easy to drink and probably the most popular among us.* Very easy to drink.

Jack Daniels Single Barrel (94 proof). Has the familiar taste of Jack, but fuller and oakier tasting.

McCarthy's Oregon Single Malt (80 proof). Uses peat-malted barley and has the smoky taste of a scotch. *If you're looking for the sweeter taste of bourbon, avoid this one.*

Honorable mention:

We also tried some *lower-end whiskeys*, such as Old Granddad, Jim Beam and George Dickel. In our opinion—*George Dickel is the best bang for your buck*—much crisper than Jim Beam with almost charcoal like taste.