

THIRD WHISKEY WASH

WHISKEY REVIEW ROUND-UP: MAPLE-FINISHED WHISKEYS

by Margaret Waterbury - February 6th, 2017

Taconic Distillery's Double Barrel Bourbon Whiskey with Maple Syrup

Vital Stats: 90 proof, bottle 2 of 606. Back label says it contains "Dutchess Private Reserve" aged in a barrel once used to age maple syrup.

The nose opens with some funky, woodshopy aromas, as well as an herbal character—mint, tomato leaf, wet garden. If I was smelling blind, I'd have pegged it as a rye.



I'd hazard a guess there was plenty of syrup left in that barrel when it was filled, because this is very, very sweet, with lots of true maple flavor and a heavy mouthfeel. Yet towards the finish, there's a resurgence of young spirit, solventy and vegetal, with flavors like mint, eucalyptus, glue, and solvent. Some bourbons and ryes have qualities that naturally suggest maple syrup—warm baking spices, apple, etc.—but this base spirit seems to move in a different, more herbaceous direction.

Water is a major improvement, toning down the viscosity and helping to remove the wet garden stuff. Now, there's a lot more classic bourbon character.

I'd never drink this straight, but it might be good over ice, and I can certainly imagine using it in cocktails.