crown royal whiskey history

Crown Royal Whiskey History: A Regal Tale of Canadian Heritage

crown royal whiskey history is a fascinating journey that intertwines royal tradition, Canadian craftsmanship, and a timeless dedication to quality. For whiskey lovers and novices alike, understanding the origins and evolution of Crown Royal offers a window into one of the most iconic names in the world of Canadian whisky. From its regal beginnings to its place on modern bar shelves worldwide, the story behind Crown Royal is as rich and smooth as the spirit itself.

The Origins of Crown Royal: A Royal Commission

The story of Crown Royal begins in 1939 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The whiskey was created to honor the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada — the first reigning monarchs to visit the country. This historic occasion called for a truly special tribute, and the Canadian whisky industry responded by crafting a blend worthy of royalty.

The Birth of a Legend

Rather than just a ceremonial gesture, Crown Royal was designed to be a high-quality blend that showcased the best of Canadian whisky craftsmanship. The distillers combined several grain spirits, aged in white oak barrels, to create a smooth, refined, and approachable whisky. The unique recipe was kept closely guarded but became a defining example of Canadian whisky blending.

What set Crown Royal apart from other whiskies at the time was its focus on smoothness and balance. While many whiskies were known for harsh or smoky characteristics, Crown Royal aimed for a silky taste profile that could be enjoyed neat, on the rocks, or in cocktails.

Why Crown Royal Stands Out in Canadian Whisky History

Canadian whisky has its own distinct identity, often lighter and smoother than its American and Scotch counterparts. Crown Royal is a shining example of this style, and its history reflects the evolution of Canadian whisky as a respected global category.

Blending Artistry and Tradition

Crown Royal's history is deeply connected to the art of blending. Unlike single malt whiskies, Canadian whisky tends to be a blend of multiple grain spirits, including rye, corn, and barley. This blending allows for a complex yet approachable flavor profile that appeals to a broad audience.

The master blenders behind Crown Royal have maintained the original formula while also innovating with special editions and variations, such as Crown Royal Black, Crown Royal Reserve, and flavored versions. Each variation pays homage to the original craftsmanship while exploring new flavor dimensions.

The Iconic Packaging and Branding

Part of Crown Royal's allure comes from its distinctive packaging — the signature purple velvet bag and the crown emblem. This branding reinforces the whisky's royal heritage and adds a touch of luxury. The velvet pouch was originally designed to protect the bottle during transit and has since become a collector's item for many fans.

The brand's marketing has always leaned into its regal origins, emphasizing quality, tradition, and sophistication. This approach has helped Crown Royal maintain its status as a premium whisky brand, particularly in markets like the United States where it has a massive following.

How Crown Royal Influenced Whisky Culture

Beyond its Canadian roots, Crown Royal's history has had a significant impact on the global whisky scene. Its smooth, versatile profile has made it a favorite among bartenders and casual drinkers alike.

The Rise of Crown Royal in the United States

In the latter half of the 20th century, Crown Royal gained substantial popularity in the U.S., becoming one of the top-selling Canadian whiskies on the market. Its approachable flavor made it ideal for cocktails like the Manhattan or simply enjoyed over ice.

Crown Royal's success in the U.S. helped pave the way for increased interest in Canadian whiskies globally, shining a light on the unique qualities that distinguish Canadian whisky from Scotch or Bourbon.

Innovations and Special Editions

Over the decades, Crown Royal has expanded its lineup with limited editions and experimental blends that celebrate milestones or regional ingredients. For example:

- Crown Royal XR: A rare blend paying tribute to the original distillery in Gimli, Manitoba.
- **Crown Royal Apple:** One of the popular flavored whiskies that introduced many new drinkers to the brand.

• **Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye:** Winner of multiple awards, this rye whisky highlighted Canada's reputation for rye production.

These variations not only reflect Crown Royal's commitment to quality but also its ability to adapt to changing consumer tastes without losing sight of its heritage.

The Distillation Process Behind Crown Royal

Understanding the history of Crown Royal also means appreciating the meticulous distillation and aging process that defines its character.

From Grain to Glass

Crown Royal is crafted using a blend of different grains, predominantly rye, corn, and barley. The grains are fermented and distilled multiple times to achieve purity and smoothness. The spirit is then aged in white oak barrels for several years, where it develops its signature flavors.

The Canadian climate plays a subtle but important role in maturation. The cold winters and warm summers encourage the whisky to interact with the wood, imparting depth and complexity. This natural aging process is a cornerstone of Crown Royal's refined taste.

Master Blenders' Expertise

The role of the master blender cannot be overstated in the history of Crown Royal. Their skill lies in selecting the right barrels and blending them in precise proportions to maintain consistency and quality. This blending art ensures that each bottle of Crown Royal delivers the smooth, balanced experience consumers expect.

Tips for Enjoying Crown Royal Whiskey

Knowing the history and craftsmanship behind Crown Royal can deepen your appreciation when you enjoy a glass. Here are some tips to enhance your tasting experience:

- Try it neat: Savor the whisky at room temperature to experience its full flavor profile.
- On the rocks: Adding ice slightly chills the whisky and opens up new aromas.
- **Mix it right:** Crown Royal is versatile in cocktails consider classics like the Old Fashioned or Whiskey Sour.

• Use proper glassware: A tulip-shaped glass can concentrate the aromas for better nosing.

Appreciating the nuances of Crown Royal is a wonderful way to connect with the rich history embedded in each bottle.

Preserving Canadian Whisky Legacy Through Crown Royal

Crown Royal is not just a whisky; it's a symbol of Canadian heritage and the country's place in the world of fine spirits. Its history reflects a blend of tradition, innovation, and respect for quality that continues to this day.

From a royal commission to a beloved global brand, Crown Royal whiskey history is a testament to the enduring appeal of Canadian whisky. Whether you're a dedicated collector or a casual drinker, understanding the story behind Crown Royal enriches every sip and highlights the craftsmanship that has made this whisky a cherished classic for over 80 years.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was Crown Royal whiskey first introduced?

Crown Royal whiskey was first introduced in 1939 to honor the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada.

Who created Crown Royal whiskey?

Crown Royal was created by Samuel Bronfman and his company Seagram to celebrate the royal visit to Canada.

What makes Crown Royal whiskey unique in its production?

Crown Royal is known for its unique blend of Canadian whiskies, typically combining multiple grain spirits to create a smooth and rich flavor profile.

Where is Crown Royal whiskey produced?

Crown Royal whiskey is produced in Gimli, Manitoba, Canada.

Why is the whiskey called 'Crown Royal'?

The name 'Crown Royal' was chosen to honor the visit of the British royal family, symbolizing a regal and premium quality whiskey.

How did Crown Royal get its iconic purple bag packaging?

The purple velvet bag was designed to evoke luxury and royalty, reflecting the whiskey's premium status and regal branding.

Has Crown Royal whiskey won any notable awards?

Yes, Crown Royal has won numerous awards over the years, including gold medals at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition and other international spirits contests.

Additional Resources

Crown Royal Whiskey History: A Deep Dive into the Iconic Canadian Spirit

crown royal whiskey history traces back to the early 20th century, weaving a story of royal homage, craftsmanship, and enduring popularity. As one of the most recognizable Canadian whiskies globally, Crown Royal has become synonymous with smoothness, luxury, and tradition. This article delves into the origin, evolution, and distinguishing features of Crown Royal whiskey, while contextualizing its place within the broader whiskey market and Canadian distilling heritage.

The Origins of Crown Royal: A Royal Tribute

The genesis of Crown Royal whiskey is intimately connected to a historical event—the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada in 1939. Seeking to honor the royal visit, the Seagram Company commissioned a special blend of whiskey that would embody Canadian pride and refinement. The result was Crown Royal, a product designed to celebrate the occasion with a unique, high-quality whisky that matched the grandeur of the monarchy.

Crafted in the distillery located in Gimli, Manitoba, the whiskey was distinguished from existing Canadian whiskies by its smoothness and blend complexity. The initial release was met with acclaim, and the whiskey's packaging—in a distinctive purple velvet bag embroidered with a gold crown—added an aura of exclusivity and regal elegance. This attention to detail in branding has played a significant role in Crown Royal's lasting appeal.

Seagram's Role in Crafting a Legacy

The Seagram Company, a dominant force in the spirits industry during the 20th century, was instrumental in shaping Crown Royal's identity. Their expertise in blending and marketing allowed Crown Royal to stand out among a crowded field of Canadian whiskies. Seagram's approach combined traditional distillation techniques with innovative blending, resulting in a product that balanced flavor complexity with drinkability.

After the initial success, Crown Royal expanded its range, experimenting with variations and limited editions, which helped maintain consumer interest. The company's ability to adapt to changing market demands while preserving the core qualities of Crown Royal contributed to its sustained

Key Features and Production Techniques

Understanding Crown Royal whiskey history requires an examination of its production methods, which distinguish it from other Canadian whiskies. Canadian whisky regulations mandate aging for at least three years, and Crown Royal often exceeds this minimum, aging its blends up to six years or more in some expressions.

The distillation process involves a blend of different grain spirits, often including corn, rye, and barley, which are carefully balanced to achieve the signature smoothness Crown Royal is known for. The whiskey is typically aged in charred oak barrels, imparting subtle notes of vanilla, caramel, and spice.

The Signature Blend and Flavor Profile

Crown Royal's signature blend is renowned for its mellow character and complexity. The use of rye grain imparts a gentle spiciness without overpowering the palate, while the corn base adds sweetness and body. This balance makes Crown Royal accessible to both whiskey novices and connoisseurs.

Tasting notes commonly highlight flavors such as:

- Vanilla and caramel sweetness
- · Hints of oak and toasted nuts
- Subtle spice from rye grain
- Light fruit undertones, often reminiscent of apple or pear

This combination results in a versatile whiskey suitable for sipping neat, on the rocks, or as part of classic cocktails.

Evolving with the Market: Varieties and Innovations

Over the decades, Crown Royal has expanded its portfolio beyond the original blend to cater to evolving consumer tastes and premiumization trends. This diversification also reflects the brand's strategic efforts to remain relevant in a competitive global whiskey market.

Notable Crown Royal Expressions

The brand now offers a variety of expressions, each with unique characteristics:

- Crown Royal Deluxe: The foundational blend, lauded for its smoothness and approachable profile.
- **Crown Royal Black:** A bolder, more intense version with a higher rye content, catering to those seeking stronger flavors.
- Crown Royal Reserve: A premium variant aged longer for enhanced complexity and richer notes.
- **Crown Royal XR (Extra Rare):** A luxury edition made from whiskies originally stored in the Seagram's historic "Seagram's VO" barrels, prized for depth and rarity.
- **Crown Royal Maple Finished:** A unique offering finished in maple syrup casks, highlighting Canadian heritage.

Each variant has contributed to Crown Royal's ability to engage different demographics, from casual drinkers to whiskey aficionados.

Marketing and Branding Strategies

Crown Royal's branding emphasizes sophistication and tradition, with the signature purple velvet bag becoming an iconic symbol of the brand. Marketing campaigns often highlight Canadian heritage, craftsmanship, and the whiskey's royal connections. This storytelling approach has helped Crown Royal maintain a premium image in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

Moreover, Crown Royal has embraced digital marketing and social media to engage younger consumers, introducing limited editions and seasonal releases that generate buzz and exclusivity.

Comparative Analysis: Crown Royal Amidst Canadian Whiskies

In the landscape of Canadian whiskies, Crown Royal holds a unique position. While many Canadian whiskies emphasize rye-forward profiles or single-grain purity, Crown Royal opts for a blended approach that maximizes smoothness and versatility.

When compared to other major Canadian brands such as Canadian Club or Forty Creek, Crown Royal tends to command a higher price point, justified by its heritage, packaging, and consistent quality. However, some purists argue that Crown Royal's flavor profile is less distinctive than some craft or single-malt Canadian whiskies, which emphasize terroir and grain character more

prominently.

From a commercial perspective, Crown Royal remains one of the top-selling Canadian whiskies globally, particularly strong in the United States market, where it enjoys broad recognition and a loyal customer base.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** Smoothness, broad appeal, strong brand identity, diverse product line, premium packaging.
- **Limitations:** Less complexity for connoisseurs seeking bold or experimental flavors, premium pricing relative to some competitors.

These factors illustrate Crown Royal's strategic positioning as a luxury yet approachable whiskey.

Impact on Canadian Whiskey Culture and Global Reach

Crown Royal's influence extends beyond sales figures; it has played a formative role in shaping perceptions of Canadian whisky worldwide. By elevating Canadian whisky to a premium status, Crown Royal helped dispel stereotypes of Canadian spirits as solely functional or mixing ingredients.

Its success has also encouraged other distilleries to innovate and invest in quality, fueling a renaissance in Canadian whiskey production. Today, Canadian whisky enjoys increased global interest, partially due to Crown Royal's trailblazing legacy.

Global Distribution and Market Penetration

Crown Royal is widely available in key international markets, including North America, Europe, and Asia. Its adaptability—both as a sipping whiskey and a cocktail base—makes it a versatile choice for bartenders and consumers alike. Strategic partnerships and distribution agreements have expanded Crown Royal's footprint, helping it maintain relevance amid shifting consumer preferences.

The brand's ongoing commitment to innovation, quality, and storytelling ensures that Crown Royal remains a flagship ambassador of Canadian whisky heritage on the world stage.

Through a rich history rooted in royal celebration and a continuous drive for excellence, Crown Royal whiskey history encapsulates the evolution of Canadian whisky into a respected and cherished category. Its blend of tradition, craftsmanship, and savvy marketing continues to secure its place in the pantheon of iconic spirits.

Crown Royal Whiskey History

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crown royal whiskey history: *Eyewitness Companions: Whiskey* Charles MacLean, 2008-03-31 Whether you are looking to find out more about the production techniques and history of your favorite distillery or want to discover a hidden gem that you've never tried before, this book tells and shows you everything you need to know, including comprehensive tasting notes of recommended whiskies, serving suggestions, and food and whiskey pairing. It is a book to enjoy at your leisure, but also acts as an ideal portable reference to take to a restaurant, whiskey shop, or on avisit to a distillery.

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story in commercial aviation. Read it and discover how to transfer the Southwest inspiration to your own business and personal life.

crown royal whiskey history: Booze for Babes Kayleigh Kulp, 2014 Booze for Babes empowers tipplers to drink better by teaching them how buy, drink and serve quality liquor in a fun and non-pandering way while highlighting lady bartenders, distillers and experts in the industry. Readers learn: • Why every lady should know her liquor • A short history of ladies' on-again, off-again relationship with the hard stuff • How to choose a quality gin, whiskey, rum, tequila, brandy, vodka or liqueur, and look cool doing it • How to tell a marketing ploy on a label from the real deal • How to train your palate and hone your taste • How to mix business and booze • How to build a well-equipped home bar • How to entertain with spirits in a way that honors old-fashioned traditions and impresses guests • Dozens of recipes for cocktails, bitters, vermouth, liqueurs, and more

crown royal whiskey history: The Oxford Companion to Spirits and Cocktails David Wondrich, Noah Rothbaum, 2021-10-20 The Oxford Companion to Spirits and Cocktails presents an in-depth exploration of the world of spirits and cocktails in a ground-breaking synthesis. The Companion covers drinks, processes, and techniques around the world as well as those in the US and Europe. It provides clear explanations of the different ways that spirits are produced, including fermentation, distillation and ageing, alongside a wealth of new detail on the emergence of cocktails and cocktails bars, including entries on key cocktails and influential mixologists and cocktail bars.

crown royal whiskey history: The World of Whisky Felipe Schrieberg, 2025-06-03 This captivating cloth book is more than a comprehensive guide to whisky. Offering a wealth of knowledge on whisky's rich history, production process, distilleries, and latest innovations, it also provides an insider's look into how the best whisky makers around the world approach their craft across both iconic brands known around the world to small microdistilleries making the best whisky in countries not normally associated with this celebrated spirit. Through in-depth profiles and interviews with celebrated experts and the world's best distillers, blenders and entrepreneurs, award-winning whisky writer and author Felipe Schrieberg explores the radical changes and innovations that have shifted how whisky around the world is produced, perceived, and consumed today. This exquisite volume is the perfect companion for both connoisseurs and novices alike. With stunning photography and an elegant design, discover why this iconic spirit has become a multi-billion global market, loved by drinkers all over the world, and the exciting changes that are shaping the industry today with The World of Whisky.

crown royal whiskey history: Whiskey and Philosophy Fritz Allhoff, Marcus P. Adams, 2009-12-15 Thoughtful essays on the history, significance, and pleasures of whiskey Everyone becomes a philosopher with a drink in hand, but Whiskey & Philosophy takes this natural pairing to a new level. It explores a range of philosophical topics related to whiskey through engaging reflections written by philosophers, whiskey writers, and others. You will learn things that are both practical (how do tasting notes vary across guides and whiskey brands?) and thought provoking (why is there the popular conception that drinking whiskey makes people mean, and is it true?). Whether your interest lies in the drink itself or in the philosophical issues surrounding it, you'll find something to interest you in this unusual book. Covers subjects ranging from geographical origin to stylistic differences between whiskey and Scotch Explores philosophical ideas such as the aesthetics, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics of whiskey and whiskey drinking Includes contributions from academics, journalists, and whiskey specialists, all written in an engaging and accessible style Whether you prefer your whiskey neat or in a Manhattan, from the United States, Scotland, or elsewhere, Whiskey & Philosophy is your perfect drinking companion.

crown royal whiskey history: Alcohol and Drugs in North America David M. Fahey, Jon S. Miller, 2013-08-27 Alcohol and drugs play a significant role in society, regardless of socioeconomic class. This encyclopedia looks at the history of all drugs in North America, including alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, cannabis, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and even chocolate and caffeinated drinks. This two-volume encyclopedia provides accessibly written coverage on a wide

range of topics, covering substances ranging from whiskey to peyote as well as related topics such as Mexican drug trafficking and societal effects caused by specific drugs. The entries also supply an excellent overview of the history of temperance movements in Canada and the United States; trends in alcohol consumption, its production, and its role in the economy; as well as alcohol's and drugs' roles in shaping national discourse, the creation of organizations for treatment and study, and legal responses. This resource includes primary documents and a bibliography offering important books, articles, and Internet sources related to the topic.

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crown royal whiskey history: World's Best Whiskies Dominic Roskrow, 2018-10-16 Revised and Updated. Whisky is one of the world's most revered spirits, with connoisseurs spending a great deal of money and time on the appreciation of rare expressions and limited edition bottles. In addition, many whisky connoisseurs travel direct to the source to see and experience the world's best distilleries at first hand. Since the publication of the first edition in 2010, many changes have occurred in the world of whisky which are fully explored in this completely new edition. Over 200 of the 750 whiskies are updated, along with over 20 of the 38 features to reflect the 'new world of whisky', from the growing US single malt craft distillery movement (including Balcones in Texas), Japan (Yoichi), Taiwan (Kavalan), India (Paul John), Australia (Overeem), France (Warengem) and Sweden (Mackmyra, Spirit of Hven). Aimed at beginners as well as connoisseurs, the book encompasses everything you need to know to increase your appreciation of this complex and fascinating spirit. Iconic distilleries such as Lagavulin, Highland Park and Glenrothes in Scotland are fully explored alongside the bourbon innovators of Kentucky such as Woodford Reserve and Maker's Mark. From global brands to tiny craft distillers, this book offers a comprehensive overview of the best dram the world over.

crown royal whiskey history: Tasting Whiskey Lew Bryson, 2014-10-21 Pour a stiff drink and crack open this comprehensive guide to everything there is to know about the world's greatest whiskeys. Exploring the traditions behind bourbon, Scotch, Irish, and even Japanese whiskey, you'll discover how unique flavors are created through variations of ingredients and different distilling techniques. With advice on how to collect, age, and serve whiskey, as well as suggestions for proven food pairings, you'll be inspired to share your knowledge and invite your friends over for a delicious whiskey tasting party.

crown royal whiskey history: Whiskey Wonders: A Comprehensive Guide Chef Emilia Santos, 2023-01-01 In every glass of whiskey, there's a story waiting to be told. Embark on an enthralling journey through the world of whiskey with Whiskey Wonders: A Comprehensive Guide. This all-encompassing guide dives deep into the history, production, and appreciation of one of the most beloved spirits on the planet. Whether you are a whiskey connoisseur or a curious beginner, this book will captivate your senses and enhance your knowledge of whiskey. In Whiskey Wonders, you'll discover the origins and history of whiskey, exploring the traditions and innovations that have shaped the spirit over the centuries. Learn about the different whiskey-producing regions and the unique characteristics that make each whiskey distinct. Delve into the fascinating process of whiskey-making, from grain selection and distillation to maturation and bottling. Refine your whiskey palate as you explore the art of whiskey tasting, learning how to savor and analyze the complex flavors and aromas of each dram. Uncover the secrets of whiskey aging and the impact of different casks and finishes on the final product. Expand your whiskey repertoire with a comprehensive guide to the various types of whiskey, including Scotch, Irish, American, and Japanese varieties. Elevate your whiskey experience by learning about the best ways to enjoy your favorite drams, from neat pours to innovative cocktails. Plus, get expert advice on building your whiskey collection, with tips on buying, storing, and investing in whiskey. Finally, go beyond the glass and discover the world of whiskey tourism, from distillery tours to whiskey festivals and events. Whiskey Wonders: A Comprehensive Guide is the ultimate resource for anyone passionate

about whiskey. Let this book be your guide as you unlock the mysteries of this magical spirit and embark on a captivating adventure that will leave you with a deeper appreciation for the art and craftsmanship behind every bottle. Get your copy today and experience the wonders of whiskey like never before. Contents: The History of Whiskey Origins and Early Distillation The Evolution of Whiskey Styles Prohibition and its Impact Whiskey Distillation Process Raw Materials and Their Influence Mashing and Fermentation Distillation and Maturation Types of Whiskey Scotch Whisky Single Malt Blended Scotch Irish Whiskey Bourbon Rye Whiskey Japanese Whisky Canadian Whisky Whiskey Regions Scotland Highlands Lowlands Speyside Islay Ireland United States Canada Japan Whiskey Tasting and Appreciation Tasting Techniques Flavor Profiles and Aromas Whiskey Glassware Pairing Whiskey with Food Whiskey Cocktails Classic Whiskey Cocktails Modern Mixology Whiskey and Food Pairings Collecting Whiskey Building a Whiskey Collection Caring for Your Collection Investing in Whiskey Whiskey Tourism Visiting Distilleries Whiskey Bars and Tastings Whiskey Festivals and Events The Future of Whiskey Craft Distilleries and Innovation Sustainability and the Whiskey Industry Global Whiskey Trends The Art of Barrel Aging Types of Barrels Barrel Charring and Toasting The Impact of Barrel Aging on Flavor The Whiskey Blending Process The Art of the Master Blender Blending Techniques and Principles Creating Consistent Flavors Whiskey and Health The Benefits of Moderate Whiskey Consumption Whiskey and Aging Whiskey and Weight Management Home Whiskey Making Introduction to Home Distilling Equipment and Ingredients Legal Considerations and Safety Whiskey in Pop Culture Whiskey in Literature and Film Whiskey and Music Whiskey in Art and Design Women in Whiskey Female Distillers and Blenders Women and Whiskey Tasting The Role of Women in the Whiskey Industry Whiskey Clubs and Communities Joining a Whiskey Club Starting Your Own Whiskey Club Online Whiskey Communities and Resources Whiskey and the Environment Sustainable Whiskey Production Reducing Waste in the Whiskey Industry Supporting Local and Organic Ingredients The Business of Whiskey Whiskey Marketing and Branding Whiskey Investment Opportunities The Global Whiskey Market and Future Trends

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crown royal whiskey history: Whiskey Michael Dietsch, 2016-05-17 Whiskey cocktails that go well beyond the Old-Fashioned After decades of being seen as an old man's drink, whiskey is booming in popularity. Craft distilleries are popping up all over the United States, making whiskeys not just from corn, rye, and malted barley, but also from grains such as quinoa, blue corn, and triticale. Cocktail lovers, moving away from sweet and fruity flavor profiles, have embraced the earthy, bitter, savory notes that come from the "brown" spirits. In this collection, Shrubs author Michael Dietsch reaches out to those cocktail drinkers with recipes both classic and original, in

historical order. He begins with colonial-era drinks such as Cherry Bounce and the Stone Fence, moving to early whiskey drinks like the Toddy and Julep, and then into the cocktail explosion of the Jerry Thomas era circa 1880s. This leads to the drinks of pre-Prohibition, Prohibition, and post-Repeal, and then to a section on the cocktail renaissance of the last 15 years. Author Michael Dietsch writes, Whiskey is a spirit with a story, and he includes an overview and some history without losing sight of the pleasures in drinking the stuff. His cocktail recipes are also infused with stories, making this book a joy to both read and use.

crown royal whiskey history: The Bronfmans Nicholas Faith, 2024-03-26 For decades, the Bronfman family ruled Seagram's and the liquor industry. This is the story of their meteoric rise and spectacular fall. The story of the Bronfman family is a fascinating and improbable saga. It is dominated by Mr. Sam, the single greatest figure in the history of the liquor business, the man who made drinking whiskey respectable in the United States and who in the 1950s and 1960s built Seagram into the first worldwide empire in wine and spirits. After Sam's death in 1971, his oldest son, Edgar, maintained the business, though he was distracted by his matrimonial problems. Nevertheless, in the 1980s he masterminded a major coup when he translated a small investment in oil made by his father into a 25 percent stake in the mighty DuPont company. But in the 1990s, Edgar allowed his second son, Edgar Jr., to indulge his ambition to become a media tycoon. The stake in DuPont was sold, and the money reinvested in Universal, the film and theme-park empire. Edgar Jr. then paid more than \$10 billion to buy Polygram Records and thus fulfill his fancy to be king of the world's music business. But at the same time, he remained in charge of the liquor business, which started to stagnate—indeed, to fall apart. Then came the final disaster when the increasingly divided family sold out to Jean-Marie Messier, overreaching empire builder of Vivendi, the French conglomerate. But the story of this amazing family over the past century is about more than booze and business. The Bronfmans is a spectacular account that details the larger-than-life personalities and bitter rivalries that have made the family so famous and, sometimes, so infamous.

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