



WE ASKED

We Asked 30 Bartenders: Which Bourbon Offers the Best Bang for Your Buck?

WORDS: ASHLIE HUGHES

ILLUSTRATION: ALEX ANDERSEN



To help wade through the never-ending collection of bottles available on today's market, we asked bartenders across the country to share their wallet-friendly picks that won't disappoint. From a bourbon that pays tribute to an African American bootlegger and a spirit produced in the American Southwest, to high-proof whiskeys that hold their own in cocktails, here's what the experts recommend.



"When it comes down to quality bourbon for a reasonable price, it's hard for me to find many that can step up to the plate like Larceny Small Batch. It's got a beautiful balance of spice, honey, and nuttiness that people desire from a wheated bourbon that gets pulled together nicely with some funkier notes of grassiness and a little barnyard profile. It also doubles down past being a sipping bourbon as it works very well in cocktails and can stand up to other flavors without getting lost in the mix. Working in a space with a clientele that wants good whiskeys to pair with their cigars, Larceny tends to work well with the gambit of smoke profiles, so it can move fast during a shift. I've yet to see it for over \$25 in any liquor store, and I always keep a bottle at home for when guests come by. Heaven Hill did well producing this one."

—Jared Kelly, head bartender, Merchants Cigar Bar, NYC