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**Locke + Co.'s Big Blaze Bourbon Wins
GOLD at 2026 Ascot Awards & DOUBLE GOLD at the 2026 Denver
International Spirits Competition**

*Ten percent of all sales from Big Blaze Bourbon benefits
Grand County firefighters and fire prevention efforts*

Denver, Colo. (May 27, 2026) — The Denver distillery making whiskey from aspen trees burned in the historic East Troublesome Fire won big in their backyard at the 2026 Denver International Spirits Competition. The second release of [Locke + Co.](#)'s limited edition Big Blaze Bourbon received unanimous double gold-level scores from a blind-judging panel of industry professionals at the prestigious competition. Additionally, it took home gold at the prestigious American Spirits Council of Tasters (ASCOT) Awards. Ten percent of Big Blaze Bourbon's proceeds benefit the brave firefighters and first responders of Grand County, Colo., who risked their lives to contain the East Troublesome Fire in 2020.

The 95-proof whiskey is aged more than five years in 53-gallon new American oak barrels and finished with aspen discs harvested from private land. It's available now at bars, restaurants and retail liquor stores throughout Colorado as well as [online](#) in 48 states.

This one-of-a-kind whiskey gives bourbon enthusiasts and curious explorers the chance to experience whiskey made from Colorado's second-largest fire in history while supporting the firefighters who risked their lives to contain it. The East Troublesome Fire ignited on Oct. 14, 2020, in the central Rocky Mountains of Grand County. Fueled by extreme winds, the blaze rapidly grew into a 10,000-acre inferno that spread to Grand Lake and Rocky Mountain National Park. By the time snow, rain, and firefighting efforts brought the fire under control later that month, it had destroyed more than 400 homes and scorched over 193,000 acres.

Big Blaze Bourbon is one of several limited-edition whiskey releases launched by Locke & Co in recent years to support their local community. The second release of Big Blaze Bourbon is a natural next step in the experiment that inspired Locke + Co. co-founders Rick Talley and Owen Locke, high school friends and Colorado natives, to make their first batch of whiskey by accident one fall. After closing a family cabin, they put a piece of charred aspen in a jar of whiskey and left it on a south-facing windowsill. The following spring when they discovered how good it tasted, plans for Locke + Co. began. In 2010, the pair bought a 23-gallon still and turned a garage hobby into a lifestyle with their first batches of whiskey aged in small barrels.

Every bottle of Locke + Co's whiskies are crafted with love and finished with hand-charred aspen wood to create A Taste Like None Other.

HOW TO BUY: Big Blaze Bourbon is available beginning **now** at select bars, restaurants, and liquor stores throughout Colorado. Visit the Locke + Co. [store locator](#) to find it.

Big Blaze Bourbon (95 proof | 47.5 ABV | \$58.99 SRP)

Ten percent of every bottle sold goes to Grand Fire Protection District No. 1

Aroma: Big Blaze Bourbon presents strong aromas of honey and vanilla, followed by delicate hints of dried berries, maple syrup and walnuts. Savor more nuanced notes of sweet, rich cherry toffee, warm toasted caramel, crème brûlée and the fresh brightness of ripe nectarine.

Taste: On the palate, Big Blaze Bourbon offers a slightly chocolatey richness, complemented by smooth maple undertones. A balanced spice follows, with the warmth of cinnamon, the lively bite of white pepper and a refreshing hint of orange peel to round out the experience.

Finish: Big Blaze Bourbon's finish is long and satisfying, leaving lingering flavors of caramel and black pepper layered with notes of toffee, light brown sugar and a final hint of cinnamon that remains long after the last sip.

Locke + Co. Distilling in Denver, Colo., is a premium small-batch whiskey distiller that changes the understanding of what makes a 'good whiskey.' Locke + Co. welcomes everyone and everyone is welcome, whether around a campfire or at a fine dining table. Remarkably smooth and flavorful, Locke + Co.'s small-barrel, aspen-aged craft spirits create the warmth and personal connection that makes good times and great memories. Aged, bottled and blended by sixth-generation Coloradans, Locke + Co. whiskey flows from the secrets and traditions of moonshiners on a mission: To make a whiskey that's among the best in the West.

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