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Make a splash...

...with our pick of the best cool serves for summer



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WELCOME...

You don't have to be very old to remember when you could tell someone's age by whether they drank gin. If they did, they were over 40, probably well over. How times have changed. Like Britons of all ages, I'm fascinated by gin's flavours, the botanicals behind them and the stories. Who better than Victoria Moore to delve behind the scenes of the extraordinary gin renaissance and share some favourite brands and cocktails along the way?



THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS



David Williams, wine writer for the Observer, explores the vibrant new age of wine in the south of France, p16.



Gin aficionado and wine writer for the Daily Telegraph, **Victoria Moore** sheds light on the meteoric rise of her favourite spirit, p26.



The Wine Show's **Joe Fattorini** debates classic cork versus modern screw cap and comes down unequivocally on the side of cork, p50.

A drink has definitely hit the big time when it becomes part of the colour scheme. Where would we be without clothes and walls in Burgundy, claret and Champagne? The latest wine colour to join the ranks is Prosecco – a friend of mine bought an eyeshadow in that colour this week. Clearly Prosecco needs no introduction, but you might be surprised how many other delicious sparkling wines there are. Helen McGinn is cracking the code of the deserving alternatives in this issue – all ready for summer parties, weddings and simple thank-goodness-it's-Friday celebrations.

If bourbon isn't yet on the colour charts, it's only a matter of time – sales are booming in Britain – but how much do you know about it? Alice Lascelles takes us inside the barrel-shaped world of bourbon, one of the most tightly regulated spirits in the world, while Mike Gerrard, another devotee, explores Kentucky for the traveller. I guarantee you'll be adding the home of bourbon and horse-racing to your bucket list.

Then, because it's summer, David Williams heads towards the Med to explore the exciting goings-on in wine in the south of France and I've been choosing wine for good-weather food. And don't miss Joe Fattorini and Amelia Singer going head to head in the cork versus screw cap debate – let us know where *you* stand.

JOANNA SIMON, EDITOR
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Stay • Visit • Eat

KENTUCKY

Mike Gerrard hits the trail in the Bluegrass State to discover the world's capital for thoroughbred horses and the spiritual home of bourbon



Bones and bourbon. They're two things Kentucky does well, and there is a connection. Most of northern and central Kentucky stands on limestone rock, which filters rainwater, adding a lot of calcium carbonate to it. Horses then eat the calcium-heavy grass, which gives them strong bones, enabling them to run faster. The water is also one of the factors that makes Kentucky bourbon distinctive.

So it's no coincidence that Kentucky is famous for bourbon (95% of the world's bourbon is from Kentucky), and is home to the most famous horse race in the United

States, the Kentucky Derby. You may only get one chance to see the Kentucky Derby each year, but the distilleries on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail are open for business all year round.

There's much more to Kentucky than bourbon and horses, of course. It's the home of bluegrass music and the International Bluegrass Music Museum. It has a thriving arts and crafts scene, with The National Quilt Museum in funky little Paducah, and it's a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Arts, one of only two such cities in the USA. There must be something in the water... →

Louisville

The airport in Kentucky's largest city is the gateway to the state, and Louisville certainly rewards a visit. Attractions include the racecourse where the Kentucky Derby is held. Boxing fans know it as the home of Muhammad Ali, the Louisville Lip. Louisville also has the world's largest baseball bat and the world's biggest glass of bourbon!

Bourbon bars naturally dominate. The city has several distilleries and names including Jim Beam and Bulleit have visitor attractions. Craft brewing came late to Louisville, but they're making up for lost time with breweries now opening all over the place.

Southern cooking has a reputation for smothering everything from chicken to catfish in batter, but there's a healthy dining scene, too, with chefs getting creative with the Southern cookbook.

WHAT TO SEE

A visit to the Brown-Forman Cooperage isn't merely to see coopers turning staves into barrels. Bourbon barrels have to be charred and watching them go through the flames is a remarkable sight. mintjuleptours.com

Sports fans are spoilt for choice, but the Muhammad Ali Center is a must-see, commemorating the inspiring life of one of the greatest sportsmen in history. alicenter.org

WHERE TO STAY

The best-known hotel is The Brown Hotel, which opened in 1923, though a recent \$12 million renovation has kept it fresh. Enjoy a bourbon flight in the bar and eat a Hot Brown (see opposite) in the place where this speciality was invented. brownhotel.com

In contrast, 21c Museum Hotel is as modern as tomorrow. Part 91-room hotel and part art museum, one of the guest rooms, Asleep in the Cyclone, is also an art installation. The restaurant, Proof on Main, is among Louisville's finest. 21cmuseumhotels.com/louisville

WHERE TO EAT

At 610 Magnolia, contemporary Southern cooking goes global thanks to chef/owner Edward Lee, who has Korean parents. It only serves either



DOWN KENTUCKY WAY

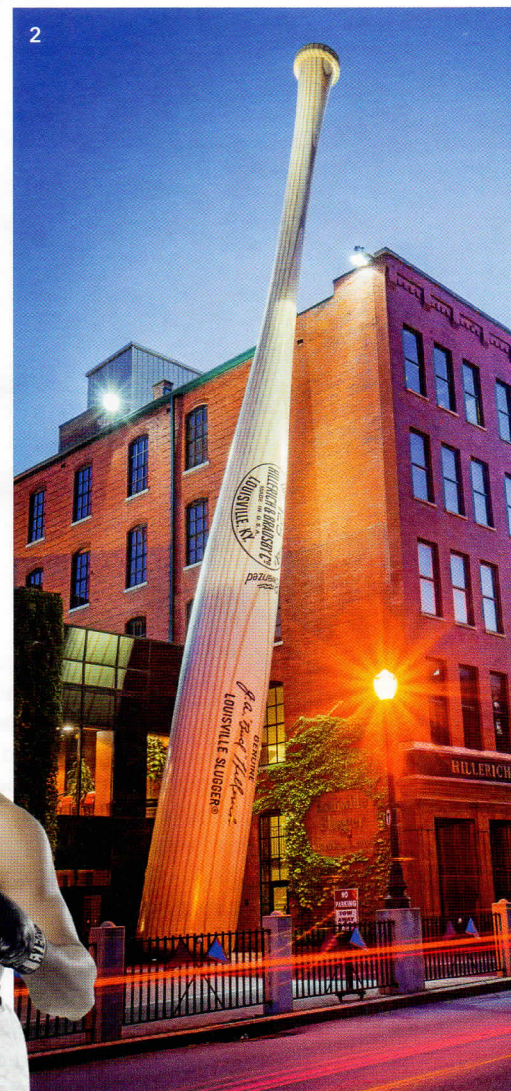
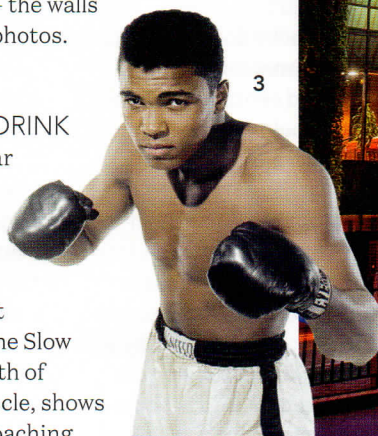
- 1 Lexington is the horse capital of the world
- 2 Hillerich & Bradsby, creators of the famous Slugger baseball bat
- 3 Son of Louisville, Muhammad Ali
- 4 Charring the barrels at spirits giant Brown-Forman
- 5 Global Bardstone brand Jim Beam
- 6 The Garage Bar

a four-course or a six-course tasting menu, which might include fusion dishes such as tempura-fried okra or sauerkraut kimchi. 610magnolia.com

Jack Fry's has provided Southern fine dining since 1933, although today's menu has a more international feel. Alongside delights like shrimp and grits are escargots and sunflower risotto. The dining room remains delightfully old fashioned – the walls lined with old photos. jackfrys.com

WHERE TO DRINK

The Garage Bar is an old converted corner gas station. Outside, an art installation, The Slow Inevitable Death of American Muscle, shows two cars approaching





each other head on, moving almost imperceptibly. There's also a rather impressive list of bourbons.

garageonmarket.com

At Red Herring, an old theatre has been repurposed into a bar, café and entertainment space with 100 classics on the cocktail list, plus a changing choice of contemporary creative cocktails. redherringlou.com

Around Kentucky

Kentucky's second city, Lexington, is the horse capital of the world.

Thoroughbreds have been bred here since the 18th century and today it has

two horse-racing tracks as well as the world's largest auction house for thoroughbreds.

Where Lexington is big for horses, Bardstown is the bourbon capital.

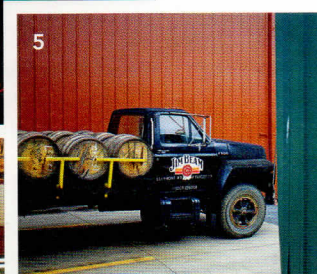
The population is under 15,000, but many are in the bourbon business.

Some names only aficionados will know, but one is the world-famous Jim Beam.

Bardstown is just one of many charming small towns that make Kentucky such a joy. Others include Bowling Green, Paducah and the artsy Berea. There are vast underground caves, gushing rivers and rolling green hills, not unlike parts of the UK. Oh, and there's bourbon everywhere.

WHAT TO SEE

One of the best distillery visits is Woodford Reserve, near the town of →



5 don't-miss dishes

The Hot Brown

Designed as an early pick-me-up after a long night out, and created in the 1920s in Louisville's Brown Hotel, variations of this toasted, open turkey and bacon sandwich are on menus everywhere.

Bourbon balls

Invented by the Rebecca Ruth Candy company in 1938, these are similar to chocolate brownies. Dark chocolate coats a filling of bourbon and chocolate truffle, though there are many varieties.

Burgoo

A Southern favourite, burgoo is basically leftovers made into stew. Cook leftover meat with potatoes and whatever vegetables you have. Hot sauce or chilli powder provides the bite Southerners like.

Derby Pie

Created in 1950 at the Melrose Inn in Prospect, this trademarked pie combines walnuts and chocolate chips. Other versions exist, such as pecans and chocolate, but must use a different name.

Louisville chilli

In Louisville they don't stick to ground beef in chilli, but may use other meats. The main difference is how it's served: not with rice but over spaghetti.





Versailles (don't get caught out, they pronounce it Ver-sales). Buildings date back to 1838, making it the oldest distillery in Kentucky. Surrounded by trees, it's very photogenic, with a creek flowing around it. woodfordreserve.com

For a good example of Southern crafts, visit The National Quilt Museum in Paducah. The vibrant designs make it look more like a museum of pop art and, if you're into crafts, check out the program of events. quiltmuseum.org

WHERE TO STAY

In Lexington, the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa is convenient for both Keeneland racetrack and the Kentucky Horse Park. The resort has a championship golf course, yet is only a

10-minute drive from downtown. It also has a signature bourbon produced by Maker's Mark. marriott.com

Jailer's Inn in Bardstown was the County Jail, housing prisoners from 1797 until 1987. You won't complain that the walls are too thin here – they're up to 30 inches thick! Stay in an old jail cell and discover why people praise Southern hospitality. jailersinn.com

WHERE TO EAT

If your idea of Kentucky cuisine is KFC, a visit to Harrison-Smith House in

- 1 Daniel Boone National Forest
- 2 Floating, a wooden quilt by Fraser Smith at The National Quilt Museum

Bardstown will be a revelation. The ethos is farm-to-table and Southern food here is fresh and flavourful, with dishes such as wild-caught catfish with local grits, green beans and mint. harrissmithhouse.com

Gratz Park Inn is one of Lexington's top hotels and its Distilled restaurant is outstanding. Dishes range from meatballs and grits, spiced with pickled chillies, to basil and pistachio couscous. distilledatgratzparkinn.com



WHERE TO DRINK

The city's Bluegrass Tavern has been voted one of the best bourbon bars in the South. This pub-like place has more than 450 different bourbons and a bar long enough to display them well. There are also plenty of smart staff on hand to guide you. thebluegrasstavern.com

Bardstown's Old Talbott Tavern opened in 1779 and is the oldest stagecoach stop in the USA, as well as the world's oldest bourbon bar. Daniel Boone and Jesse James both stayed here. There's live music at weekends, and accommodation, too. talbotts.com *WD*

Top 3 photo spots

KENTUCKY STATE CAPITOL

The State Capitol is in Frankfort, 25 miles from Lexington. Take a tour to see the grand staircases, inspired by Paris' Opera Garnier. capitol.ky.gov



KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

This equine theme park just outside Lexington has trail rides and a twice-daily Parade of Breeds show (1 April-5 November). kyhorsepark.com



JIM BEAM DISTILLERY

In Clermont, this is one of many photogenic distilleries, with its colourful old buildings and stillhouses. jimbeam.com

