

Bourbon and the Classic Cocktails Comeback

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1919 BOURBON PICKLEBACKS

Revered as America’s “Native Spirit,” bourbon is becoming an increasingly popular drink of choice as classic cocktails are continuing to make a comeback. While the origin of bourbon is still a large source of debate, it’s widely believed that it was first distilled in charred oak barrels by a Baptist minister living in Bourbon County, Kentucky. Try new takes on classic recipes by visiting these eight San Diego restaurants whose bourbon spirits will transport you back to the era of bow ties and suspenders.

There’s no better place to celebrate bourbon than at [barleymash](#), where the philosophy and menu options are inspired by the libation. Enjoy their local favorite, P.S.C (Pumpkin Spiced Cocktail), made with Old Forester Bourbon, house pumpkin syrup, lemon and orange bitters. Or take a swig of one of their over 25 bourbon selections served neat, on the rocks or mixed.

In Pacific Beach, [Backyard Kitchen & Tap](#) is celebrating our nation's love of bourbon with its Tiger's Tea that features Spiced Tea Infused Bulleit Bourbon, house made lemonade, and a lemon mint garnish. After a long day at the beach, walk on over to enjoy this specialty cocktail and watch the sun go down on their outdoor patio.

Saddle-on-up to [Brazen BBQ's](#) Lost & Found Saloon to order your favorite bourbon drink. Choose from their Mint Julep made with Maker's Mark, fresh mint and sugar, their Brazen Manhattan perfected with Bulleit Rye Bourbon, Carpano Antica vermouth, orange bitters and Luxardo cherries, or their Apple & Oak that features Woodford Reserve Bourbon, apple bitters and cinnamon. It's hard to have just one with this selection!

Gaslamp's favorite sports bar, [1919](#), pairs well-made bourbon with a shot of a different kind. Their signature "Pickle My Fancy" features a generous pour of spirits to sip or shoot, paired with a homemade pickle back with one-of-a-kind flavors. Try their Bulleit 10 paired with a Cucumber Pickle Back that makes the bourbon go down oh-so-smoothly.

Pull up a seat at the bar at North Park's [True North Tavern](#) for some neighborhood fun. Have a hankering for a libation with a naturally sweet kick? The Strawberry Bourbon Mule- Benchmark Bourbon, strawberry puree, fresh lemon juice and ginger beer-is a refreshing sip that will cool you down after long day of shopping. Don't worry if you find yourself wanting more after one sip!

[Union Kitchen & Tap](#), located in the heart of the Gaslamp and Encinitas, showcases some of the most innovative craft cocktails in San Diego. Head to the original Union Encinitas for a The Jennings that's crafted with Bulleit Bourbon, St. George Absinthe, lemon and fennel bitters. This drink will have your taste buds dancing! Make sure to grab a seat in the Oak Room that resembles the inside of an oak tree bringing the aging process of bourbon full-circle.