



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Additional Information

Bill Karlson

KO Distilling

(443) 934-4655

bill@kodistilling.com

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# PRESS RELEASE

## KO DISTILLING ANNOUNCES FIRST 'BROWN' SPIRIT

*Bare Knuckle American Wheat Whiskey* Available in Commemorative Release

**MANASSAS, VA – November 17, 2016** – KO Distilling is releasing their first-ever brown spirit, *Bare Knuckle American Wheat Whiskey*, just in time for Black Friday. Containing a high wheat and no corn mash bill of 60% wheat, 30% rye and 10% malted barley, all from Bay's Best Feed Farm in Heathsville, VA, *Bare Knuckle* has been aged for a year in full-size 53-gallon new charred American Oak barrels.

KO Distilling will unveil *Bare Knuckle American Wheat Whiskey* at a public release event, Black Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-7:00pm at their distillery in Manassas. To mark this special occasion, KO is offering a limited number of commemorative bottles of *Bare Knuckle* to the general public. Each commemorative bottle comes with a special label that has been hand numbered and signed by both Bill Karlson and John O'Mara, KO's founders.

*"It's exciting to see our first aged product finally bottled and labeled. It boasts a smooth taste that's even better after being in the barrel for a year. We're excited for everyone to try our first brown spirit – it's a perfect sipping whiskey,"* says O'Mara.

KO Distilling is accepting online reservations for their commemorative release. Individuals can reserve one bottle for purchase via the KO Distilling website, [www.kodistilling.com](http://www.kodistilling.com), and are encouraged to pickup their bottle at the Black Friday event. Reserved bottles must be picked-up no later than 6:00pm on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, *Bare Knuckle American Wheat Whiskey* will be on the shelves at 100 Virginia ABC stores. Starting in December, it will also be available at liquor stores, restaurants and bars in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Delaware.

KO Distilling is Manassas' first distillery, the 19th registered distillery in the Commonwealth, and one of 2,000 (and-growing) craft distilleries in the country. To date, KO Distilling has won nine awards in spirits competitions. At the 2015 New York International Spirits Competition, KO won the title of "Virginia Moonshine Distillery of the Year" and was awarded a bronze medal in the whiskey category for their Virginia Moon White Whiskey. Their whiskey went on to win a silver medal at the 2016 American Craft Spirits Association (ACSA) Spirits Competition, a bronze medal at the 2016 American Distilling Institute (ADI) Spirits Competition, and a bronze medal at the 2016 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Their Battle Standard 142 Gin in Navy Strength was also awarded a bronze medal at the 2016 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Recently, KO's Battle Standard 142 Barrel Finished Gin was awarded a gold medal in the tasting competition and a bronze medal in the package design competition at the 2016 MicroLiquor Spirit Awards, as well as a silver medal at the 2016 New York International Wine & Spirits Competition.

In September, KO was awarded a \$50,000 Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Manassas. The grant will be used by KO Distilling to expand its production facility resulting in additional manufacturing jobs. This will further result in a 300% increase in production and allow KO to triple the amount of Virginia grains used in the making of their fine spirits.

### **About KO Distilling**

KO Distilling is located at 10381 Central Park Drive, Suite 105, Manassas, VA 20110. The distillery currently makes and sells *Battle Standard 142 Gin (Navy Strength)* at 114 proof, *Battle Standard 142 Gin (Standard Strength)* at 90 proof, *Battle Standard 142 Gin (Barrel Finished)* at 90 proof (just released in June 2016), and *Virginia Moon White Whiskey* at 90 proof. The new Barrel Finished gin has been "rested" in used Heaven Hill bourbon barrels, giving it a golden hue and great taste. KO Distilling also makes small batch bourbon, rye whiskey and wheated whiskey, which it ages on-site in charred oak barrels. KO small batch straight bourbon and rye whiskeys will be available in 2017. KO currently has 400+ (& growing) 53-gallon whiskey barrels stored on-site, which are filled with brown spirits.

For additional information about KO Distilling and to reserve your commemorative bottle of Bare Knuckle American Wheat Whiskey, please visit [www.kodistilling.com](http://www.kodistilling.com).

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