

**DISTILLED
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NEWS RELEASE

Distilled Spirits Council is the trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits sold in the United States.

Website: <http://www.distilledspirits.org>

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Liquor Industry Marks George Washington Distillery Anniversary Oct. 8 By Tapping Barrels, Historic Bottling for Auction at Mount Vernon

Washington, D.C.—Leaders of all three tiers of the liquor industry, members of Congress and other notables will gather at George Washington’s historic Mount Vernon home on Tuesday, October 8th for a major industry celebration, charitable fundraiser and auction, the Distilled Spirits Council announced today.

The first week of October, 1797, George Washington recorded in his weekly farm journal that carpenters began “hewing the timber for the still house.”

The event, which marks the 205th anniversary of the construction of Washington’s distillery, will include an historic auction of the first commemorative bottles tapped from the barrels the industry has been aging at Mount Vernon. The auction and the dinner tickets are expected to raise approximately \$100,000 for the educational mission of the Mount Vernon estate.

“Since the last year’s groundbreaking of the industry’s \$1.2 million distillery restoration project, America’s leading distillers have been aging rare and choice whiskies and rums at Mount Vernon,” said Distilled Spirits Council President Peter Cressy. “On October 8th, under special license from the U.S. government, we will tap a limited number of special George Washington commemorative bottles to auction for the benefit of Mount Vernon’s educational mission and to celebrate our founding father’s role as the largest whiskey distiller in colonial America.”

The day’s activities—hosted by George Washington himself—begin with a major media event at the distillery site at 11:00 am with historical and archaeological perspectives from Mount Vernon’s resident experts, followed by the historically authentic tapping and bottling of commemoratives. The barrel tapping will include a tasting featuring the industry’s leading master distillers and lunch highlighted by Martha Washington’s renowned recipes.

Among the Master Distillers expected to attend: Jerry Dalton of Jim Beam Brands; Brown Forman’s Lincoln Henderson and Chris Morris (Woodford Reserve and Jack Daniels); Dave Pickerell of Maker’s Mark; Joe Dangler of Virginia Gentleman; Jennings Backus of George Dickel; Ken Pierce of Very Old Barton; James Graf of McCormick Distilling; Jimmy Russell of Wild Turkey and others.

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The evening's festivities begin at 6:45 pm with a reception, mansion tours and fireworks, followed by dinner, auction and the inauguration of the George Washington Spirits Society.

Four prominent individuals will be recognized for their "integrity, responsibility and service to society" as the first inductees into The George Washington Spirits Society: former Brown Forman CEO Ambassador W.L. Lyons Brown; General Alfred M. Gray, USMC (Ret.), former commandant of the Marine Corps; A. Raymond Tye, chairman, The United Group; and Charles Bailes, Jr. of ABC Fine Wine and Liquor.