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Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye: The little rye whiskey that could

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To say that once you've tasted one rye you've tasted them all would not be a fair statement in urban drinking cities such as Dallas. The [rye whiskey](#) hysteria sweeping the country seems to have a very firm stronghold in a city known for being all hat and no cattle. The pretentious drinking folk may thumb their noses up at [Crown Royal's](#) Northern Harvest Rye and that would be absolutely fine for the rest of us - - it is a little [rye whiskey](#) that could and DOES! This is where breaking the mold of what we traditionally think about in regard to rye whiskeys gets accomplished with the North Harvest Rye of Crown Royal. Continuing its impact with the same smoothness and subtlety of Original Crown Royal but with lighter spice, rich butterscotch and a creamier finish. This is not going in your daddy's Old Fashioned. When people think of Crown Royal most of us are thinking to a time when we first started drinking in college and learning how to mix drinks ourselves. The original is used by many - those like me who don't know a whole lot and for those that gain more and more experience each time they test their palettes. Both unassuming and comfortable, the addition of the Crown Royal North

Harvest Rye appeals to those palettes who want to enter into the rye whiskey realm.

Crown Royal has just released its first-ever blended rye whisky, **Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye**. The distinctly smooth whisky, crafted from 90% rye, showcases the richness of the Northern Harvest Rye grains and can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks, or as the key ingredient in traditional rye cocktails such as the Manhattan or Old Fashioned.

In a special tasting at **Capital Grille (500 Crescent Ct)** with Dallas Master of Whisky Scott Mauldin, the sampling of the North Harvest Rye; the original; and the **Crown Royal Hand Selected Barrel** (from Sigel's) offered up an array of flavorful whiskey choices to stimulate the flavor palette. You will enjoy trying these for yourself or bringing them home. The Northern Harvest Rye is a great bargain at \$30 a bottle and offers up the same ease in mixing your favorite classic cocktails as the original but with decidedly a different taste. Drink it neat or on the rocks to really experience what it has to offer.

Rye Whiskey – It's a Canadian thing that Americans just don't understand

I thought that a primer on Rye whiskey might be necessary for many of those starting this adventure. Americans have long felt Canadian whiskey was boring. If you are unfamiliar with the terminology, the guys over at [real men drink whiskey](#) break it down for you. Canadian club in the liquor cabinets meant hot toddies and grandma's moth balls from the linen closet. We have come a long way from those days. Rye whiskey by which most hail from Canada got to call the shots early (pun intended) for the simplest of reasons – Canada has been doing it longer and named it that way. The simple truth is that Canada has been distilling rye (main ingredient in rye whiskey) for a very long time and almost as long as the country has been in existence. Majority of the mash used in Canada to make rye whiskey used to be predominately rye mash. No actual rules were ever set in place and so producers would use a corn and rye ratio that is as high as 9:1. You will often hear that rye whiskeys are made with 90% rye. Per Mauldin that would be a misnomer. He states that 90% of what goes into a rye is rye whiskey and not rye grain.

It seems the Americans are a little bit more pretentious with the labeling and **American Rye whiskey** must be made with a mash that has no less than 51% rye. Also in the US it must be aged in new oak barrels distilled to an ABV (Alcohol by Volume) less than 80%. American rye will also include corn and barley as part of its mash. Rye grains are typically planted in the fall and ensure the harsh winter climate producing a sprout in the spring or summer that offers up robust flavors of fruit, cloves and spice. The Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye includes about 90% rye whiskey with 9% of which is a younger Crown Royal spirit. One of the interesting changes to whiskey that has come about due to the explosion of rye whiskeys on the scene is less of an emphasis on age statements. Per Scott Mauldin, with whiskeys you can't go on age. Many brands are foregoing the mention of age statements altogether as there are some very great whiskeys with a combination of mashes that were distilled at varying lengths of time.

What's in the Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye?

The flavor combination of the Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye a little more subtle than original Crown Royal with a rich butterscotch and spiced vanilla that ends creamier. It does have some peppery notes and spice to it with very little after bite and much more subtle alcohol burn which allays that sweetness you find in other rye whiskeys. This rye whiskey is 90 proof with 45% alcohol by volume and retails for a decent \$29.99 for 750 mL bottle. A little higher proof than other rye whiskeys as Alberta Rye Whiskey Dark Patch is the other 90 proof that comes to mind. This particular rye whiskey will appeal to everyone as a great intro to sipping this neat or on the rocks. However this is a flavorful addition to many of your favorite craft cocktails such as a Manhattan or Old Fashioned. The cocktails we sampled included the Old Fashioned, the Manhattan and the Sauzerac. Of the three for that evening the Sauzerac was superb. Capital Grille created an unusual cocktail with the Crown Royal Harvest Rye adapted from a **Bufala Negra**. This cocktail included the Crown Rye, White Vinegar, Basil, Simple Syrup and Ginger Ale. It was absolutely superb with this rye whiskey.

Sneak Peek of the Crown Royal Hand Selected Barrel

With Scott Mauldin, Diageo Master of Whiskey in the house we definitely got a great treat on tasting the Crown Royal Hand Selected Barrel (Sigel's Barrel) at the tasting. I could go on and on about the Northern Harvest Rye but the Hand Selected Barrel was my favorite for the evening. This single barrel rye is distilled in Crown's Coffey Rye Still which includes one of the 50 whiskeys that goes into Crown Royal Deluxe. Whisky adorers can savor the signature Crown Royal smoothness through this single barrel liquid that is produced from the brand's unique Coffey Rye Still, the only known still of its kind in North America, located in Gimli, Manitoba. Being able to pull this one out exclusively to taste is a real treat. What makes this special as Mauldin states is that this is the "Bananas Foster" of the whiskey flavors. It's lighter and much sweeter since it's coming from the Coffey rye still. It's sweeter, fruit flavored with 64% corn 31.5% rye and 4.5% malted barley. Get ready for the higher proof at 103 proof. Price point for this whiskey is around \$54.99 for 750 mL and worth every penny. The Royal Hand Selected Barrel was first introduced in Texas. To commemorate the purchase, every bottle produced from the barrel will also feature a personalized medallion denoting the retail location.

Both Crown Royal products will include a box and a felt bag. The Northern Harvest Rye felt bag is white and the Hand Selected Barrel bag is gold. Crown Royal is a part of global company Diageo. For more information about Diageo, visit www.diageo.com. Visit Diageo's global responsible drinking resource, www.DRINKiQ.com, for information, initiatives, and ways to share best practice.



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