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GSN Review: Duke Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey

August 9, 2015 by frodelicious



John Wayne lived life large. Amazingly, he made 162 feature films in his career, most of them playing rough and ready cowboys. Although, my personal favorite is "The Quiet Man". Married three times, raised seven children, he was also a family man who enjoyed fishing, horse riding and hunting. It makes sense that he would enjoy his booze at the end of the day. He was a collector of premium Bourbons, Scotches, Tequilas and wines and according to his son Ethan Wayne, he had hoped to one day create his own blends. Sadly, he never had the chance, but Ethan has fulfilled his father's dream by crafting Duke using the styles of whiskies that his father left behind.

Duke Kentucky Straight Bourbon (88 proof)

Visual: Slightly tarnished copper.

Nose: Hearty, friendly and self-possessed. A lot of sweet mid-range notes, with a light touch of fresh caramel corn at the apex.

Taste: Smooth, woody, slightly young and with a dash of saltiness that brings it all together.

Finish: Medium long with the oak character standing at the fore.

Overall: A very nice bourbon that evokes an independent spirit. This is not a mass-produced characterless whiskey. It makes for a luscious Manhattan when using a top shelf Italian sweet vermouth.

GSN Rating: B+

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