

Yahara Bay Distillers sparks craft spirit movement

Submitted by Yahara Bay Distillers

Yahara Bay Distillers sparked a Wisconsin craft distillery revolution when they were bonded in 2007. Founded by Nick and Catherine Quint, Yahara

Bay is the second distillery in Wisconsin since prohibition. They have played a part in giving birth to many spirit brands such as Crooked Water, Black Dot, Death's Door, SoulBoxer and more.

Both under the Yahara

Bay banner as well as for private labels, distiller Lars Forde has crafted about 75 products in the last ten years, all made in multiple small batches in a single 90-gallon copper pot still.

Last year, Yahara Bay

Distillers moved into a new must-see 20,000-square-foot space to better accommodate not only their distillation equipment but also a Public House replete with a full tasting bar, gift shop, live music venue and art gallery.

Today, the distiller is popular thanks to both its limited-edition aged bourbons and the crafted experiences offered to visitors. The inside distillery tour and exclusive tasting afford guests the opportunity to learn how hand-crafted spirits are created from one of the most prolific distillers in Wisconsin. The guided tour begins in the art gallery and ends at the tasting bar with six samples of Yahara Bay products.

The Public House, with its lounge vibe, features delicious craft cocktails as well as aged whiskies and bourbons either neat or in flights.

A Wisconsin artisan cheese pairing also accompanies a spirit flight and is in addition to their new specialty cheese-centric menu offerings. Exclusive tastings are held at no charge at Yahara Bay's tasting bar each Thursday and Friday from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. prior to the three scheduled tours. Happy hour with \$3 cocktails, brew and wine takes place between 5-6 p.m.

The tours and tastings are \$10 per person and held each Saturday at 1

p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. For reservations, call 608-275-1050.

Yahara Bay Distillers is located at 6250 Nesbitt Rd. in Madison. The tast-

ing bar and gift shop is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and also 11 a.m. to close each Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Old Fashioned called '3rd Gear' rolled out

Madison-based Yahara Bay Distillers are putting the nouveau back into the classic Old Fashioned by introducing a blended and bottled Bourbon Old Fashioned called 3rd Gear. Poured on ice, it can be complimented by a sour, sweet or press soda.

The high-octane imagery on the 3rd Gear label features a vintage motorcycle rider with goggles, evoking lyrics to the song "Born to be Wild." 3rd Gear Bourbon Old Fashioned is an aspirational cocktail for those desiring to live life with their pedal to the metal.

"We like to think of 3rd Gear as experiencing Wisconsin poured from a bottle," said GM Nels Forde. "With Wisconsin summers in mind, we offer 3rd Gear in an alternative shatterless bottle which is perfect for enjoying events like Concerts on the Square, tailgating, boating excursions and weekend camping trips,"



3rd Gear is masterfully blended by distiller Lars Forde, yielding an inviting shimmering copper color with bright orange peel aromas. It is nuanced with notes of Door County cherries, toasted walnuts and

pleasing aromatic spices and botanicals. 3rd Gear is sold at fine retailers such as Steve's Liquor Store or can be enjoyed by-the-glass at Yahara Bay's Public House at 6250 Nesbitt Rd. in Madison.



Distiller Lars Forde of Yahara Bay Distillers also creates beats. (Submitted photo)

Live entertainment each Friday

Yahara Bay Distillery offers live music every Friday evening throughout the summer.

One major highlight of the series will be Andrew Kasab, an American fingerstyle guitarist, harp guitarist and singer-songwriter, performing Aug. 31 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Hailing from North Carolina, Kasab is known for combining traditional and contemporary techniques, energetic performances, arrangements of modern works for the guitar and harp guitar and occasionally plays harmonica and ukulele.

For a full schedule of performances, visit www.yaharabay.com.



YAHARA BAY DISTILLERS

DISTILLERY TOUR & TASTING
Saturdays 1PM, 2PM & 3PM, \$10 per person

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS – NO COVER

EXCLUSIVE TASTINGS
Thurs & Fri 5PM - 7PM, Sat 11AM - 1PM, FREE

Check Yahara Bay's Facebook page for special events & current listings

YAHARA BAY PUBLIC HOUSE
6250 Nesbitt Road, Madison 608.275.1050