

New distillery bringing more than bourbon to town

By The Kentucky Standard Editorial Board
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The bourbon demand is an all-time high and the state of Kentucky is reaping the benefits. In less than a month, two new distilleries have announced plans to locate in the heart of Kentucky.

On Thursday, the “Bourbon Capital of the World” got another economic boost as Bardstown Bourbon Company announced plans to break ground on a \$25 million, 45,000 square foot distillery, warehouses and visitor’s center. The 100 acre facility will be located in Nelson County Industrial Park and visible from the Blue Grass Parkway. This announcement came on the heels of Diageo, a global distilled spirits company, unveiling its own plans to build a \$115 million facility and 108 million gallon distillery on 300 acres east of Shelbyville.

If you saw the artistic rendering in Friday’s edition of The Kentucky Standard, you have to agree that the Bardstown Bourbon Co. facility will be quite impressive. But more impressive is that we’ll all get to witness first-hand the creation of a new brand of bourbon made right here in Bardstown. How exciting to be welcoming a new distillery into Bardstown and Nelson County, which brings the total to five.

Everyone is just as excited about having Steve Nally back in his home state. Nally, a member of the Bourbon Hall of Fame and retired Maker’s Mark Master Distiller, had moved to the wild west — Kirby, Wyo. — to build and run that state’s first legal distillery.

“It’s a great pleasure to be back home,” said Nally on Thursday. Nally cited that the group had looked at other sites in Kentucky and Indiana but Bardstown was the perfect fit for the new distillery. The people, culture and history of Bardstown made the decision easy for President and CEO David Mandell and his bourbon making team.

The new distillery will also bring great benefits to our local economy. First, the company has pledged to use local businesses during the construction phase and will employ 35 once the facility has been built. The distillery and visitor’s center, which will focus on education and innovation of the bourbon-making process, will give tourists and bourbon connoisseurs another reason to visit and stay in the area. Company officials have also expressed possible interest in adding a small adjoining events center that would hold up to 500 people, which is desperately needed for the area.

With all the recent announcements, it’s certainly a great time to be in Kentucky, the heart of the bourbon industry and to live in the “Bourbon Capital of the World.”

Welcome into our family, Bardstown Bourbon Company.