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It's All About Whiskey and Bourbon at Barrel 31

From *Eat It Kansas City*

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/27/4919759/barrel-31-raises-a-glass-to-whiskey.html>

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Happy Hour at Kansas City's Barrel 31 is a little different than your average bar and restaurant. It runs from 3 to exactly 6:47 p.m., supposedly the time whiskey pioneer Jack Daniels died on Oct. 10, 1911. But considering Barrel 31 has 85 varieties of whiskey and bourbon available, from staples like Jack to odd balls like Jefferson's Ocean (it's aged at sea), the homage makes plenty of sense. This place is all about the hard stuff — and the whiskey nerds who love it.

It's also further evidence that the Midwest is becoming a spirits haven (<http://www.think-mag.com/your-work/new-legislation-reawakens-the-american-spirits-business/>). Sure, Barrel 31 serves plenty of classic and rare spirits, but it also features several local specialties, including Dark Horse Reunion Rye (Lenexa, Kan.) and the just-released Crown Valley Absinthe Classical, distilled in Ste. Genevieve, Mo.

Not into whiskey and bourbon? Don't fret, American craft brews are available, along with a secret paper-bag special — a random beer chosen by the bartender and sold for a mere \$2. The Barrel 31 menu also features specialty cocktails, brunch and plenty of food.

The restaurant officially opens its doors today, March 31, in a renovated 120-year-old building in Martini Corner at Union Hill (400 E. 31st, Kansas City, MO; 816-809-1106). Want a glimpse at the place before you make the trip? Check out the sneak peek of Barrel 31's décor courtesy of our friends at Eat It Kansas City (<http://eatitkansascity.com>).

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