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## LOUISVILLE'S BURGER AND BOURBON BONANZA

Written by [Matt Domino](#) — Posted on March 20, 2013

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Louisville, Kentucky is known for two things: the Kentucky Derby and the University of Louisville men's basketball team. And with the Cardinals as [the number one seed in this year's NCAA tournament](#), and the Kentucky Derby just around the corner, it's easy to overlook the fact that Louisville is fast becoming known for a third unique quality: it's abundance of burger and bourbon restaurants.

This beautiful marriage of meat and liquor was first ushered into the Louisville city limits by [Bourbons Bistro](#) in 2005. The bistro features a list of over 130 bourbons including exclusively featured labels and a selection of rare and hard-to-find varieties as well. Though Bourbons has an impressive full menu full of southern flavor, its burger has gained a reputation as perhaps the best in the city.

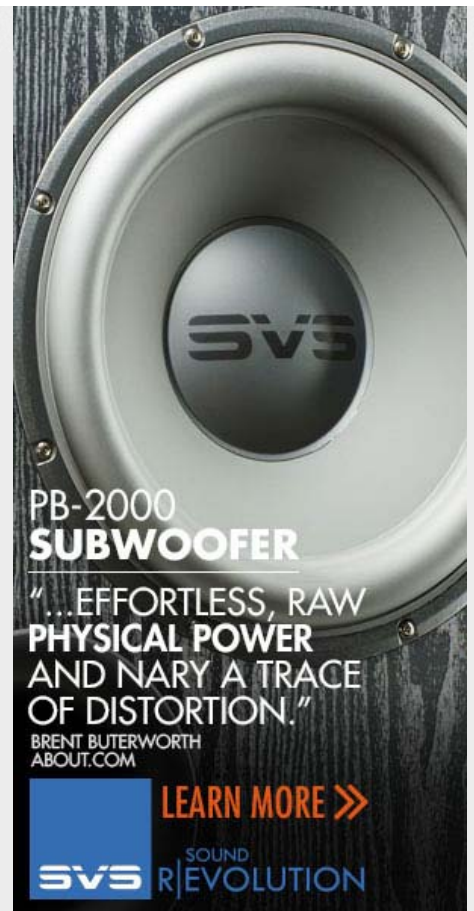
Last year, the movement gained steam when brothers Anderson and Marshall Grissom created a **\$10.00 bourbon and burger special** at their restaurant, Dish on Market. This well-loved combination allows a diner their choice of any bourbon on the menu (well, *almost* any bourbon—let’s be realistic here) as well as any of Dish on Market’s one dozen varieties of burger; including the Market Street Burger with havarti cheese, jalapeno jelly and tobacco onions.

In 2013, Louisville is set to see this trend explode. Last month, **Down One Bourbon Bar** opened, featuring their own bourbon menu with over 100 varieties, including their own Down One Single Barrel by Knob Creek. And though they don’t have a burger yet, their menu is full of southern charm. Down the street, Sidebar at Whiskey Row is set to open next month with a burger **that is a unique mixture of chuck, brisket and short rib**—and of course, there will be an emphasis on bourbon as well.

February also saw the opening of burger-innovating gastro pubs Mussel + Burger Bar as well as Game. **Mussel + Burger Bar**—the creation of the Louisville culinary powerhouse Martinez family—features a menu of twelve mind-blowing burgers, including **the Seafood Burger**, which is a patty made of crabmeat, shrimp and lobster, dressed with avocado, tomato and crabmeat aioli. Then, **there is Game**, which is an offshoot of one of Louisville’s favorite restaurants, **Hammerheads**. At Game, you **create your own burger** by choosing your “game” (ostrich, kangaroo, duck, lamb, elk, venison, antelope, wild boar, salmon, angus), your cheese, and your choice of extra (options include *foi gras*, pork belly, bacon and caramelized onions).

Needless to say, Louisville natives and visitors alike are excited about what is happening to burgers and bourbon in the Derby City.

*Image courtesy of Dish on Market.*



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