The Risen

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This work also supplies telephone numbers, internet websites, street addresses, and low to high prices for numerous Kentucky tourist attractions and distilleries. The tour of Kentucky compendium furnishes the times attendants show distilleries and what bourbon and alcoholic products are sold. Fabulously shared are the distilleries that give complimentary samples. Descriptions of the distilleries and milieus to eat and sojourn include easy to follow directions. A Kentucky guest can easily carry this splendid Kentucky tour manual while looking for a distillery to visit or other delightful Kentucky attractions. Disclosed are Kentucky places like the capitol of Beaux-Arts architecture, Marriott Louisville East, Brown Hotel, 2IC Museum Hotel, the Old Taylor Distillery similar to a castle with picturesque gardens, The Headley-Whitney Museum, Holly Hill Inn, Locust Grove, and former Speaker of the House and Secretary of the State Henry Clay’s palatial residence Ashland. Other pleasant lures are Federal Hill mansion in My Old Kentucky State Park, Beaumont Inn, Maker’s Mark Distillery adored with an arboretum and a glass ceiling of flowers, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Old Frankfort Pike, Gratz Park Inn, Pendennis Club, a Romanesque tourist bureau in Richardson, and a Bourbon Festival. The book cover draws readers with bright colorful photographs of the intriguing Louisville Slugger Museum with its seven story baseball bat, interesting barrels aging bourbon, glamorous bourbon glasses, and a single beautiful black horse against a dazzling orange sky.

Approximately one hundred sixty-six vibrantly colorful photographs of Kentucky intrigue holidaymakers. A glossary reveals sixty-six bourbon terms. To obtain extra data on the subject of bourbon, impressive “Appendix A: More Resources for Bourbon Lovers” lists fifteen books, five magazines, eleven websites and blogs, and four organizations. “Appendix B: Bourbon Retailers” tells of eight places in Louisville to purchase bourbon and possibly try at no cost, five locations in Lexington, three stores in Bardstown, and two sites in Frankfort. A serviceable map indicates the locations of fifteen distilleries in Bardstown, Frankfort, Lawrenceburg, Clermont, Loretto, Versailles, Lexington, and Louisville. Another map designates the sites of ten distilleries in Lexington, Paris, Bowling Green, Louisville, Lebanon, Pembroke, Newport, Danville, Bardstown, and Maysville.

Complete narratives of the distilleries divulge hours, types of bourbons, other kinds of spirits, chief executive, master distiller, owner/parent company, tours, what’s special, history, the tours, history, travel advice, the bourbon, and products. Kentucky Bourbon Country: the Essential Travel Guide is ideal for academic and public libraries. The recommended audience is people interested in Kentucky and bourbon and its history.

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe Library


“Each spring the hard rains come and the creek rises and quickens, and more of the bank peels off, silting the water brown and bringing to light another layer of dark earth…Decades pass. She is patient, shelled inside the blue tarp.” (p.1)

On a warm pleasant evening in Charlotte near 7 pm, a crowd gathers to enter Park Road Books, hoping to find a seat in the back of the shop to see and hear beloved Southern Appalachian writer, Ron Rash, talk about his latest novel, “The Risen”. Many of them have already purchased and read Ron Rash’s latest offering of life as he knows it in the small towns and mountain villages he calls
home. They are here to enjoy a reading of a passage or two, expectant that the sound of his voice and the emphasis he places on his own words will resonate beyond the small space they share.

Many in the room probably believe that when life ends one rises to the heavens and all pain and sorrow from life’s days are washed away. “The Risen” presents family and friends whose lives were troubled, tormented, afflicted by deep sorrows, earned regrets and woes of the world. With subtle introductions, the scenes are set to draw us into characters we recognize in ourselves and in our loved ones. Who was Bill, who was Eugene, who was Ligeia, who was Nebo? If Eugene is the main character, is he always “in trouble”? Is one of those characters to be the one who is “The Risen”, what does Rash want us to know about pain and sorrow being washed away?

Leaving the “book signing” that evening, those filing out of the shop into the warm night, carry their signed books with quiet dignity. Knowing respect for the departed is expected in this southern town not far from the Appalachian mountains of Ron’s life.

Through a compelling and fast moving journey, the author takes his readers forward and backward through events that hook us to the two hundred and fifty three pages. Reading it in one night just as I did with “One Foot in Eden” is another night I will always remember. It is my hope you will follow this author and his beautiful deep love of his Appalachian mountain home.

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The Southeastern Librarian

The lowcountry of South Carolina has long held sway over all who have lived there, but surprisingly, those from outside of the South often offer the most interesting perspectives on the region. The Travelers’ Charleston: Accounts of Charleston and Lowcountry, South Carolina, 1666-1861, edited by Jennie Holton Fant, chronicles the discovery of the Carolinas in the mid-seventeenth century until the beginning of the American Civil War, primarily focusing on Charleston. The city was an increasingly popular destination for American and European travelers who came to observe, to write, and to experience the lowcountry culture. These visitors often recounted their impressions of this exotic locale, as well as their struggle to understand how a region of such charm and beauty could also perpetuate the injustices of slavery. Fant has chosen sixteen firsthand accounts written by a variety of travelers over a two-hundred-year period, and she provides rich historical context for each narrative. Through her well-researched selections of writings, she offers the reader a broad social and historical lens for the often contradictory opinions of lowcountry visitors.

The first accounts of the area describe a lush wilderness with unique geography (rivers, islands, and inlets), which early English explorers considered extremely desirable for colonization. Teaming with fish and animal life, as well as rich pastureland and forests, it was an “earthly paradise.” Yet when surveyor and naturalist John Lawson came to the region in the early 1700s, he noted that natural resources were already being depleted and the Native American population was suffering from European encroachment and disease. The growing resentment and distrust felt by the Native Americans would later result in the murder of Lawson by members of the Tuscarora tribe.

By the 1770s, Charleston had become a center of American society and a strong economic force. Josiah Quincy, Jr., an attorney who had assisted John Adams in the defense of the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre, made his way to the city in 1773. Sent to the Carolinas on the eve of the American Revolution to recover his health, Quincy partook of the city’s glittering social season, dining in grand homes and talking politics with Charlestonians. Sadly, while he enjoyed the dances, horse races, and theatre, the journey did not improve his health and he died of tuberculosis while returning to Massachusetts.

Lured by adventure and the tales of the exotic coastal South, many European tourists and travel writers found their way to Charleston. John Davis, son of a wool draper, sailed to America in 1798 and found rich subject matter for his books and travelogues. Davis had modest success with his aptly titled Travels, a romanticized account of his time in America, which included “odes” to crickets and mockingbirds, as well as descriptions of the population of Charleston. While he described the beauty of the country and the affability of the wealthy family whose child he tutored, he also freely expressed his feelings on slavery, condemning the treatment of the black populace as cruel and encouraging the support of emancipation.

As the book moves into the nineteenth century, the accounts reflect the city’s growth and political undercurrents. Ravaged by fires, storms, and disease, Charleston had survived to become a beautiful and vibrant...