

F. PAUL PACULT'S

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**Rough Rider – The Big Stick  
Cask Strength Rye Whisky  
(USA; Long Island Spirits,  
Baiting Hollow, NY)  
60.5% abv, \$60.**

A lovely bronze/auburn color; ideal, flawless purity. I liked the aroma on this rye from the very start as it clearly points to the base grain in spades through the defining fragrances of salted crackers, prune, new leather, loose leaf tobacco; second passes reveal spicier notes such as sage, sea salt, toffee, saltwater taffy, chalk/limestone. Entry is voluptuously sweet and spicy, with dried fruit notes of raisin and prune; midpalate soars to flavor profile heights in waves of campfire warm elevated abv, caramel, candied walnut, fudge. Ends on an embers-warm note that embraces the tongue, wrapping it in oily layers of spice, grain, oak, and brown sugar. One fraction of a step away from being unctuous, but luckily it didn't reach that point, being instead a robust, slightly fiery dram of succulence and dried fruit.

*Spirit Journal December 2015:*  
**★★★★/Highly Recommended**