



Tips for New Barrels

Courtesy of STAVE Worldwide, LLC

Protect your investment by adhering to the following guidelines.

- After inspection, replace the cardboard head covers and rewrap the barrel with plastic wrap until you are ready to re-hydrate.
- NEVER STORE BARRELS OUTDOORS. Exposure to heat and sun will dry out your barrel. Rain, in addition to discoloring the barrel, can seep inside, stagnate and taint the barrel. Barrels love cool, semi-humid environments away from wood boring pests.
- When rinsing new barrels use fresh, chlorine-free water. The use of chlorinated water can lead to the development of TCA (the compound that causes “cork taint”).
- Do not soak the outside of the barrel heads. Soaking the *outside* of the barrel can cause the heads to buckle.
- Do not paint, stain or oil the outside of the barrel. Doing so interferes with the barrel’s ability to breathe.
- Do not use boiling water to hydrate the barrel. If you prefer a hot water method, 180° is the optimal temperature as boiling water quickly compromises desirable tannins and oak compounds.
- Once hydrated, fill barrels within a few hours to prevent mold growth.
- If you are not planning to immediately use the barrel, DO NOT REMOVE the bung. Unless you request otherwise, STAVE Worldwide delivers all **Balázs™** brand barrels and puncheons filled with sulfur dioxide gas. This gas helps protect your barrel until you are ready to re-hydrate. The gas will dissipate after a few weeks, so if you choose to keep barrels in storage for a longer period of time you may need to re-sulfite them.

WARNING: Sulfur dioxide is an irritant which attacks the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and throat. Exercise caution when using the nose to check for the presence of sulfur dioxide. Asthmatics and persons with breathing conditions should avoid this task.

Should you have any questions regarding your new **Balázs™** cooperage, please contact STAVE Worldwide toll-free at 866-208-3285.