

THE HISTORY OF GUINNESS BREWERY

A pint of stout. Deep brown oak. Each recalls the other when you take in the rich character of Guinness Breweries European Cooper's Oak flooring. More than 100 years ago, skilled coopers honed perfected of wood; one at a time, the craftsmen fortified the knots with hand-carved wedges, tapping them in by hand. Perfect curves of heavily grained brown oak – chosen for its strength – came together to form a vast brewing vat capable of holding some 722 pints of stout.

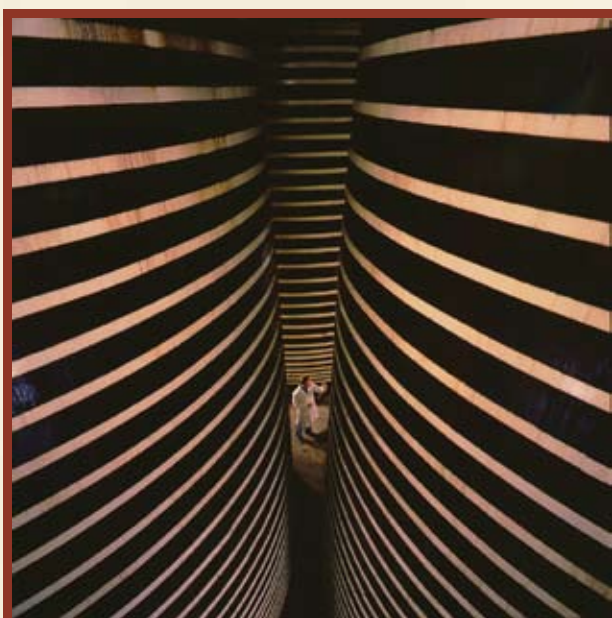
It is from the great brewing vats, like the ones shown here, that Mountain Lumber Company has rescued a unique wood and transformed it into flooring.

Guinness was founded in Dublin in 1759. It was first brewed by Arthur Guinness in a disused brewery that he leased for 9,000 years at the rate of £45 per year. Arthur started by brewing Dublin ale, but soon diversified into 'porter' — so-called because of its popularity with market porters.

Within 10 years, Guinness Extra Strong Porter was being exported to England. It became known as Guinness Stout, as a strong porter was known as a “stout” porter. By the 19th century, Guinness focused its brewing activities on stout alone.

Arthur's three sons who succeeded him in the family business insisted that only materials of the highest caliber could be used to produce the stronger, longer-lasting beer

for which Guinness became famous. These standards paid dividends, and by 1883 the St. James's Gate Guinness brewery was the largest in Ireland, and by the close of the century, the Guinness brewery was the largest in the world.



In time, brewing technology changed. Guinness' St. James's Gate brewery replaced the great wooden vats with metal ones. Some of the wooden vats were dismantled and stored while others were marked for demolition.

Willie Drake, Mountain Lumber's owner and buyer, traveled to Dublin to hand select many of the long, curved planks from those wooden vats.

From there, Mountain Lumber's craftsmen were careful to save many details that show the wood's history. They skillfully sanded the planks, preserving the wedges in the knots and retaining accents left by iron bands that once wrapped the massive vats. The warm-colored oak flooring ranges in hues from golden brown to dark brown, which is the result of countless pints of the famed dark ale producing a rich patina, indicative of years of brewing the world's first stout.



Guinness Limited now has breweries in 51 countries worldwide, and Guinness stout is sold in 150 countries. Over 10 million glasses of Guinness stout are enjoyed every day. Drink in its rich history every time you step on your original Guinness® floor.