



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Thorntons® Celebrates Derby Season with Trio of Bourbon-Inspired Offerings**  
*Louisville Favorite Hits the Road with Johnsonville and a Bourbon Kitchen Food Truck*

**(Louisville, KY – April 24, 2017)** – Thorntons® is hitting the road with a Bourbon Kitchen food truck this Derby season, and celebrating with a trio of bourbon-inspired offerings. The beloved Bourbon Ball Donut is back, and the brand is launching a new Johnsonville® Bourbon BBQ Sausage and Bourbon Vanilla Latte to round out its trifecta of bourbon-infused treats. The new offerings celebrate bourbon's growing popularity, and are designed to capture the *spirit* of Kentucky's favorite time of the year.

Thorntons and Johnsonville Sausage have tapped local Louisville food artisan and founder of Bourbon Barrel Foods®, Chef Matt Jamie, to work with Johnsonville on the project. Together they will help bring bourbon to the forefront of Derby parties this year with the new offerings.

- Johnsonville Bourbon BBQ Sausage: bold, hardwood smoked BBQ sausage with a kick of bourbon
- Bourbon Ball Donut: rich, smooth, bourbon cream-filled doughnut covered in bourbon-flavored chocolate icing and topped with a pecan
- Bourbon Vanilla Latte: combination of two well-loved flavors – bourbon and vanilla – all in one latte

All products are available for purchase now through May at your local Thorntons (the Bourbon Ball Donut is only offered at Thorntons stores in Louisville, Lexington and southern Indiana). For guests who are heading to the Derby or have a group of Derby fans to feed, guests can also pre-order the donuts by the dozen (available where Bourbon Ball Donuts are sold) by visiting their local Thorntons. There is a three dozen minimum on all pre-orders.

Look out for the Thorntons Bourbon Kitchen food truck that will be stopping at various locations throughout Lexington and Louisville, April 27 – 29, 2017.

For more information on the bourbon-inspired offerings and food truck route details visit <http://www.thorntonsinc.com/my-thorntons/all-about-bourbon> and share in the excitement on social media, using #ThorntonsBourbonKitchen.

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**About Thorntons®**

Founded by James Thornton in 1971, the company has been recognized as one of the top independent convenience store chains in the nation. Based in Louisville, Kentucky, Thorntons currently operates 185 stores that provide fresh foods, high quality beverages and fuel in six states: Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana,

Ohio, Tennessee and Florida. Thorntons' mission is not only to provide top of the line food and beverages, but makes giving back a top priority in every market. Learn more about Thorntons by visiting [www.thorntonsinc.com](http://www.thorntonsinc.com). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc](http://www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc) and Twitter at [www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc](http://www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc).

**About Johnsonville Sausage, LLC**

Wisconsin-based Johnsonville Sausage is the No. 1 national sausage brand, featuring: brats, Italian sausage, smoked-cooked links, breakfast sausage, Grillers, meatballs and now, chicken. Johnsonville products are served in 125 professional, college and semi-pro sports stadiums throughout the U.S. Johnsonville employs approximately 1,600 members. Founded in 1945 by the late Ralph F. and Alice Stayer, the privately held company remains family owned today, providing various sausage products in 40 countries. For additional information, visit [www.johnsonville.com](http://www.johnsonville.com).