

BEST of NEW YORK

The Absolute Best Old-Fashioned in New York

By Robert Simonson

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Austere, fiercely traditional, and absolutely perfect. Photo: Melissa Horn

For six weeks, the editors of *New York Magazine* and *Grub Street* are publishing *a series of definitive lists that declare the absolute best versions of 101 things to eat, drink, and do*. To help find New York City's best old-fashioned, *Grub Street* turned to Robert Simonson, the author of *The Old-Fashioned*. (In other words, he wrote the book on the subject.)

The Absolute Best

3. Gallagher's Steakhouse

228 W. 52nd St., nr. Broadway; 212-245-5336

A sad fact of city life for the old-fashioned drinker is that the burg's ancient steakhouses and taverns — the places that *should* be making the best old-fashioned in the city, simply because they've kept in practice throughout the decades — in fact make the worst. Bad well liquor, chemically treated maraschino cherries, muddled fruit, squirts of seltzer, antiquated methods, and lazy bartending all lead to old-fashioned that provoke (and probably wouldn't be ruined much by) salty tears. An exception is the recently revamped Gallagher's Steakhouse in midtown. Veteran mixologist Dominic Venegas consulted on the cocktail menu when the eatery reopened in 2014, and the bar staff has stuck by his instructions. Two years and more on, the house old-fashioned remains sturdy and satisfying.