the last word cocktail history

The Enigmatic Tale of The Last Word Cocktail History

the last word cocktail history unfolds like a well-crafted story, blending mystery, revival, and timeless charm. This intriguing cocktail, known for its perfectly balanced flavors and striking green hue, has captured the hearts of bartenders and cocktail enthusiasts around the world. But how did The Last Word come to be? What is the story behind its resurgence? Let's take a deep dive into the fascinating journey of this classic drink, exploring its origins, ingredients, and the cultural moments that brought it back into the limelight.

The Origins of The Last Word Cocktail

Unlike many other cocktails with murky or disputed beginnings, The Last Word has a fairly traceable origin dating back to the Prohibition era in the United States. The cocktail first appeared in the 1916 edition of the Detroit Athletic Club's cocktail book, which is considered one of the earliest printed sources featuring this drink.

Prohibition and the Detroit Athletic Club

The Detroit Athletic Club (DAC) was a hub for social gatherings among Detroit's elite during the early 20th century. It was within these walls that The Last Word was likely concocted, showcasing a bold and innovative blend of ingredients that set it apart from other drinks of the time. The recipe called for equal parts gin, lime juice, green Chartreuse, and maraschino liqueur—a combination that was surprisingly balanced, refreshing, and complex.

During Prohibition, cocktails like The Last Word became popular as bartenders experimented with different spirits and liqueurs to mask the harshness of bootleg alcohol. The use of Chartreuse, a French herbal liqueur produced by Carthusian monks, lent an intriguing depth to the cocktail, while the maraschino liqueur added a subtle cherry sweetness.

The Ingredients That Define The Last Word

Understanding the components of The Last Word cocktail helps explain why it has fascinated mixologists for over a century. Each ingredient plays a crucial role in creating the cocktail's signature flavor profile.

- **Gin:** The base spirit, usually a dry gin, provides a botanical backbone with juniper and citrus notes.
- **Green Chartreuse:** This liqueur is made from a secret blend of 130 herbs and plants, giving it a complex herbal character and vibrant green color.

- Lime Juice: Fresh lime juice adds crisp acidity, balancing the sweetness and herbal notes.
- Maraschino Liqueur: A clear cherry-flavored liqueur that introduces a subtle fruity sweetness and slight nuttiness.

The equal parts formula makes it simple to remember and easy to mix, which was likely a factor in its initial popularity. The cocktail's bright green color also makes it visually appealing, a factor that has helped it stand out on bars and menus.

The Last Word's Disappearance and Revival

Despite its promising start, The Last Word cocktail faded into obscurity for much of the mid-20th century. It didn't appear in many cocktail guides during the 1940s through the 1990s, leading some to believe it had been lost to time.

How Did The Last Word Make a Comeback?

The revival of The Last Word can be largely credited to Seattle bartender Murray Stenson. In the early 2000s, Stenson discovered the recipe in Ted Saucier's 1951 book "Bottoms Up!" and began serving it at the renowned Zig Zag Café. The cocktail quickly gained a cult following among patrons and bartenders alike.

Stenson's reintroduction of The Last Word sparked a broader renaissance of classic cocktails, inspiring bartenders worldwide to dig into forgotten recipes and elevate cocktail culture. Since then, The Last Word has become a staple in craft cocktail bars, celebrated for its balance, complexity, and historical charm.

The Last Word in Modern Cocktail Culture

Today, The Last Word holds a respected place in the pantheon of classic cocktails. Its blend of herbal, citrus, and sweet notes appeals to those who appreciate nuanced flavors beyond the standard gin and tonic or martini.

Variations and Twists

The cocktail's balanced base has inspired numerous variations, with bartenders experimenting by swapping ingredients or adjusting proportions. Some popular twists include:

• **The Final Ward:** Replaces gin with rye whiskey for a spicier profile.

- The Last Word with Mezcal: Adds smoky depth by substituting mezcal for gin.
- The Last Word Sour: Incorporates egg white for a frothy texture.

These creative interpretations keep The Last Word relevant and dynamic, inviting both traditionalists and adventurous drinkers to explore its potential.

Tips for Making the Perfect Last Word Cocktail

If you're eager to try your hand at making The Last Word, here are some helpful tips to ensure a well-balanced drink:

- 1. **Use fresh lime juice:** The acidity is key to balancing the sweetness and herbal flavors.
- 2. Choose quality gin: A London Dry gin with a strong botanical profile works best.
- 3. Measure carefully: Equal parts ensure harmony between the ingredients.
- 4. **Shake well with ice:** This chills the cocktail and dilutes it slightly to perfect the flavor.
- 5. **Strain into a chilled coupe glass:** Presentation matters, and a cold glass enhances the drinking experience.

The Cultural Impact of The Last Word Cocktail

Beyond its taste and ingredients, The Last Word has become symbolic of the craft cocktail movement's dedication to rediscovering and preserving cocktail heritage. Its story reflects a broader appreciation for the artistry and history behind classic drinks.

Bartenders often cite The Last Word as a benchmark for balance and complexity, making it a rite of passage for those entering the craft. Its popularity on social media and inclusion in cocktail competitions continue to elevate its status, introducing new generations to its unique flavor.

The resurgence of The Last Word also highlights how cocktails can serve as cultural artifacts—capturing the spirit of an era while evolving with contemporary tastes. Its blend of Prohibition-era roots and 21st-century revival exemplifies the cyclical nature of food and drink trends.

Exploring the last word cocktail history reveals a story as layered and intriguing as the drink itself. From its inception in a Detroit social club to its rediscovery in a Seattle bar, The Last Word has journeyed through time to become a beloved classic. Whether you're a seasoned cocktail enthusiast or a curious beginner, savoring a Last Word is like taking a sip of history, perfectly balanced and

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of the Last Word cocktail?

The Last Word cocktail originated in the Prohibition era, specifically around 1916, at the Detroit Athletic Club, created by bartender Frank Fogarty.

What are the main ingredients of the Last Word cocktail?

The Last Word cocktail is made with equal parts gin, green Chartreuse, maraschino liqueur, and fresh lime juice.

Why did the Last Word cocktail disappear for several decades?

The Last Word cocktail fell out of popularity after Prohibition and was largely forgotten until it was rediscovered by bartenders in the early 2000s, partly due to the obscure nature of its original recipe.

Who is credited with reviving the Last Word cocktail in modern times?

Seattle bartender Murray Stenson is credited with reviving the Last Word cocktail around 2004 at the Zig Zag Café, leading to its resurgence in popularity.

How does the Last Word cocktail reflect the cocktail trends of the early 20th century?

The Last Word cocktail reflects early 20th-century trends by balancing strong, herbal, and sour flavors with equal parts of each ingredient, showcasing the era's preference for balanced and complex cocktails.

What makes the Last Word cocktail unique compared to other classic cocktails?

The Last Word is unique because of its equal parts formula and the inclusion of green Chartreuse, a potent herbal liqueur, which gives it a distinct, complex flavor profile not commonly found in other classic cocktails.

Additional Resources

The Last Word Cocktail History: A Timeless Revival in the World of Mixology

the last word cocktail history traces back to the Prohibition era, a period that significantly shaped American cocktail culture. This enigmatic and balanced concoction, composed of equal parts gin, green Chartreuse, maraschino liqueur, and fresh lime juice, has captivated bartenders and enthusiasts alike with its complex yet harmonious flavor profile. Understanding the origins, evolution, and modern resurgence of the Last Word cocktail offers valuable insight into how classic recipes can be rediscovered and reinterpreted across generations.

Origins of the Last Word Cocktail

The Last Word cocktail first appeared in print in 1916, documented in the Detroit Athletic Club's cocktail manual. This publication is one of the earliest known sources to include the recipe, suggesting that the drink was already circulating within exclusive social circles. The recipe's precise proportions—equal parts of all four ingredients—were unconventional at the time, diverging from the more straightforward spirit-forward cocktails that dominated the era.

Its creation is often attributed to the bartenders of the Detroit Athletic Club, though concrete evidence about its inventor remains elusive. The cocktail's name itself evokes a sense of finality and sophistication, perhaps indicative of its intended role as a signature or "last word" drink to cap off an evening.

The Prohibition Era and Its Impact

During Prohibition (1920-1933), many cocktail recipes were lost or obscured due to the clandestine nature of alcohol consumption and the scarcity of quality ingredients. The Last Word likely fell into obscurity during this period, as many pre-Prohibition classics did. However, its balanced and refreshing profile aligned well with the era's need to mask the flavors of substandard or homemade spirits.

The use of green Chartreuse, a French herbal liqueur with a complex botanical makeup, was particularly bold. Chartreuse was not as widely available in the United States during Prohibition, which may have contributed to the cocktail's initial decline in popularity.

The Rediscovery and Modern Revival

The Last Word remained relatively unknown for much of the 20th century until its resurrection in the early 2000s. This revival is largely credited to Seattle bartender Murray Stenson, who rediscovered the recipe while working at the Zig Zag Café. Stenson's reintroduction of the cocktail sparked interest in bartending circles, leading to a broader renaissance of classic cocktails.

The cocktail's resurgence coincided with a growing movement towards craft cocktails that emphasize quality ingredients, balanced flavors, and historical authenticity. The Last Word stood out as an exemplary model of these principles.

Flavor Profile and Composition

One of the defining features of the Last Word is its equal parts composition, which is both a blessing and a challenge for bartenders. The cocktail combines:

- **Gin**: Provides a botanical foundation with juniper and other herbal notes.
- Green Chartreuse: Offers a potent blend of 130 herbs and botanicals, lending a distinctive sweetness and complexity.
- Maraschino liqueur: Adds a subtle cherry-almond flavor, contributing depth and balance.
- Lime juice: Injects acidity and freshness that brightens the overall drink.

The result is a cocktail that is simultaneously sweet, sour, herbal, and slightly nutty, demonstrating a remarkable harmony of flavors. Its complexity challenges the palate without overwhelming it, making it a favorite among those seeking sophisticated taste experiences.

Comparisons with Contemporary Cocktails

When compared to other Prohibition-era cocktails such as the Bee's Knees or the Sidecar, the Last Word is notably more herbaceous and layered. While classics like the Bee's Knees rely heavily on citrus and honey to mask harsh spirits, the Last Word embraces botanical and liqueur complexity.

In the modern cocktail scene, the Last Word stands alongside drinks like the Aviation and the Corpse Reviver #2, which also utilize maraschino liqueur and citrus components. However, the inclusion of green Chartreuse sets the Last Word apart, offering a flavor dimension that is both intense and nuanced.

Pros and Cons of the Last Word Cocktail

• Pros:

- Balanced and complex flavor profile appeals to adventurous drinkers.
- Equal parts recipe simplifies measuring and preparation.
- Historical significance adds to its allure and storytelling potential.

• Cons:

- Green Chartreuse can be expensive and difficult to find in some regions.
- Its bold herbal notes may not appeal to those preferring sweeter or simpler cocktails.
- Requires fresh lime juice for optimal taste, limiting convenience in some settings.

The Last Word in Contemporary Mixology

Today, the Last Word continues to inspire bartenders worldwide. Its revival has prompted numerous variations, with mixologists experimenting by substituting the base spirit or tweaking liqueurs to create new interpretations. For instance, some versions replace gin with mezcal for a smoky twist, or swap lime for lemon juice to adjust acidity.

Despite these adaptations, the original recipe remains a benchmark for balance and craftsmanship in cocktail making. Bars that feature the Last Word often highlight it as a testament to the enduring appeal of classic recipes that transcend time.

Why the Last Word Endures

The Last Word cocktail history is a story of rediscovery and appreciation for the artistry of early 20th-century bartenders. Its resurgence underscores a broader cultural trend valuing authenticity, heritage, and complexity in food and drink. Moreover, it demonstrates how a carefully crafted recipe can be timeless, appealing to both nostalgic connoisseurs and a new generation of cocktail enthusiasts.

The cocktail's equal parts formula makes it approachable yet sophisticated, allowing bartenders to showcase technique and ingredient quality without overwhelming complexity. This balance between accessibility and refinement is perhaps why the Last Word remains a staple on craft cocktail menus worldwide.

Ultimately, the Last Word serves as a reminder that in the ever-evolving world of mixology, some classics retain their power to surprise and delight, proving that the past often holds the key to innovation and excellence in the present.

The Last Word Cocktail History

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the last word cocktail history: The Comic Book History of the Cocktail David Wondrich, 2025-09-23 A graphic novel history of the cocktail—from prehistoric wassail to our current boozy renaissance—featuring 20 recipes by drinks historian, Daily Beast columnist, and award-winning author David Wondrich. There's no better writer to tell the colorful history of cocktails than David Wondrich, widely considered to be one of the world's foremost authorities on cocktails and a driving force behind the early-twenty-first-century revival in the classic American art of mixing drinks. In The Comic Book Story of the Cocktail, Wondrich teams up with comics artist Dean Kotz to trace the evolution of the cocktail. Beginning with the ancient days of wassail and hypocras (mixed drinks based on wine and beer), they narrate a tumultuous and vibrant history that stretches through the Age of Exploration, the boozier parts of the Enlightenment and America's hurly-burly nineteenth century, to the Disco years, the Cosmo years, and the modern Cocktail Revolution. Kotz's intricate, masterful drawings illustrate stories that have never been properly told and introduce key characters who haven't yet received their due. Nearly thirty recipes round out this spirited account, featuring accurate versions of old classics and a generous selection of secret weapons from the mixologist's vest pocket. So, settle in with your libation of choice and prepare to meet the good, the bad, and the boozy in this lively and jam-packed tale.

the last word cocktail history: The Book of Cocktail Ratios Michael Ruhlman, 2023-05-23 *WINNER of an IACP COOKBOOK AWARD* New York Times bestselling author Michael Ruhlman applies the principles of his innovative book Ratio—about the relationships of ingredients to each other—in this delightful back-to-basics cocktail book, sharing the simple recipes and fundamental techniques that make for delicious and satisfying libations. Did you know that a Gimlet, a Daiguiri, and a Bee's Knees are the same cocktail? As are a Cosmopolitan, a Margarita, and a Sidecar. When hosting a party wouldn't you enjoy saying to your guests, "Would you care for a Boulevardier, perhaps, or a Negroni?" These, too, are the same cocktail, substituting one ingredient for another. Or if you'd like to be able to shake up a batch of whiskey sours for a party of eight in fewer than two minutes, then read on. As Michael Ruhlman explains, our most popular cocktails are really ratios—proportions of one ingredient relative to the others. Organized around five of our best-known, beloved, classic families of cocktails, each category follows a simple ratio from which myriad variations can be built: The Manhattan, The Gimlet, The Margarita, The Negroni, and the most debated cocktail ever, The Martini. A practical reference of cocktail classics, a source of inspiration for putting a new spin on the usual gin and tonic, and an affable tribute to the pleasures of the cocktail hour, The Book of Cocktail Ratios shows you how to serve up delectable drinks in no time. Cheers!

the last word cocktail history: The Cocktail Companion Cheryl Charming, 2018-11-30 Drink your way through history, learn tips from the best bartenders, and become a cocktail connoisseur with this fantastic guide. The Cocktail Companion spans the cocktail's curious history from its roots in beer-swilling, 18th-century England through the illicit speakeasy culture of the United States Prohibition to the explosive, dynamic industry it is today. Learn about famous and classic cocktails from around the globe, how ice became one of the most important ingredients in mixed drink making, and how craft beers got so big, all with your own amazing drink?that you made yourself!?in hand. In The Cocktail Companion, well-known bartenders from across the United States offer up advice on everything, including using fresh-squeezed juices, finding artisanal bitters, and creating perfect cubes of ice that will help create intriguing, balanced cocktails. You'll want to take your newfound knowledge from this cocktail book everywhere! The Cocktail Companion is a compendium of all things cocktail. This bar book features: 25 must-know recipes for iconic drinks such as the Manhattan and the Martini Cultural anecdotes and often-told myths about drinks' origins Bar etiquette, terms, and tools to make even the newest drinker an expert in no time! If you liked The Drunken Botanist, The 12 Bottle Bar, or The Savoy Cocktail Book, you'll love The Cocktail

Companion! "Cheryl has demystified the cocktail and made it . . . fun and approachable! She takes us on an entertaining journey into the world of libations and those who serve them; their histories, stories, and antidotes. In the end, we better understand how we have arrived where we have and leave a more educated and appreciative imbiber!" —Tony Abou-Ganim The Modern Mixologist

the last word cocktail history: The Bartender's Ultimate Guide to Cocktails Cheryl Charming, 2022-02-15 Fantastic Alcohol Facts, Cocktail Culture, and More "A wealth of knowledge and experiences from virtually every corner of cocktail culture."— T.A. Breaux, Author of Breaux Absinthe: The Exquisite Elixir #1 Bestseller in Alcoholic Drinks & Beverages Peruse the interesting histories and lore of alcohol as you fill your cocktail glass and sip a drink—hand-made by you—using one of the many artisanal yet simple recipes inside. Learn fun alcohol facts and tidbits you'll bring with you everywhere you go. Learn, concoct, and be merry. Are you brand new to alcohol and don't know where to start? Are you more experienced but looking for something that gives context to the art of mixology? Books with nothing but recipes get stale fast, but this bartender bible is a cocktail codex, combining all the facets of alcohol and classic cocktails—recipes, traditions, stories, and more—so you'll always find something interesting within. Step into yesteryear and peer at the history of classic cocktails through the lens of those who have created and loved mixed drinks throughout time. Alcohol's culture is a storied saga full of lore, anecdotes, and experiences. Author Cheryl Charming gathers information from almost every corner of the drinking world and brings it all together in one fun, easy to read, and informative love letter to the heritage of the drinks we all love today. Inside The Bartender's Ultimate Guide to Cocktails, you'll find: Recipes for basic bar drinks and classic cocktails everyone should know, like the Manhattan Advice from your favorite bartender on everything alcohol—facts like what makes the perfect ice cube, bar tool essentials, and the best places to get specialty drinks or artisanal bitters Cultural anecdotes, myths, and stories about drinks, their origins, and their rise to popularity If you liked Liquid Intelligence, The Drunken Botanist, or Death & Co, you'll love The Bartender's Ultimate Guide to Cocktails.

the last word cocktail history: Last Words Karl S. Guthke, 1992-10-30 Whether Goethe actually cried More light! on his deathbed, or whether Conrad Hilton checked out of this world after uttering Leave the shower curtain on the inside of the tub, last words, regardless of authenticity, have long captured the imagination of Western society. In this playfully serious investigation based on factual accounts, anecdotes, literary works, and films, Karl Guthke explores the cultural importance of those words spoken at the border between this world and the next. The exit lines of both famous and ordinary people embody for us a sense of drama and truthfulness and reveal much about our thoughts on living and dying. Why this interest in last words? Presenting statements from such figures as Socrates, Nathan Hale, Marie Antoinette, and Oscar Wilde (I am dying as I have lived, beyond my means), Guthke examines our fascination in terms of our need for closure, our desire for immortality, and our attraction to the mystique of death scenes. The author considers both authentic and invented final statements as he looks at the formation of symbols and legends and their function in our culture. Last words, handed down from generation to generation like cultural heirlooms, have a good chance of surviving in our collective memory. They are shown to epitomize a life, convey a sense of irony, or play to an audience, as in the case of the assassinated Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, who is said to have died imploring journalists: Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something. Originally published in 1992. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

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and Europe. It provides clear explanations of the different ways that spirits are produced, including fermentation, distillation and ageing, alongside a wealth of new detail on the emergence of cocktails and cocktails bars, including entries on key cocktails and influential mixologists and cocktail bars.

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the last word cocktail history: Vintage Spirits and Forgotten Cocktails: Prohibition Centennial Edition Ted Haigh, 2020-03-03 In this new, expanded edition of Vintage Spirits and Forgotten Cocktails—issued for the 100th Anniversary of National Prohibition—historian, expert, and drink aficionado Dr. Cocktail vastly widens his examination of 1920-1933, the thirteen-year period when women got the Vote, child labor was abolished and, ironically, saw the cocktail elevated, prolonged, and expanded, spreading this signature American drink form in tasty ripples around the world. All this, plus more drink recipes! Nothing is so desired as the thing denied. Prohibition made people want cocktails very, very badly. Because synthetic liquor was the easiest to make, it was also the easiest to get. Problematically, it tasted awful and wasn't exactly good for you either. Cocktails with their mélange of flavors were a made-to-order method for disguising the bad hooch. Along with 100+ rare and delicious authentic recipes gathered from old cocktail manuals and scraps of paper never published, this illustrated trip down mixology lane tells the fascinating origins of the cocktail and how it evolved over time, including its rising popularity during Prohibition. Vintage illustrations and advertisements, photos of old bottles and cocktail artifacts, and fascinating Prohibition-era photographs bring the tippling past back to vivid life. Recipes for rare treasures like The Fogcutter, Knickerbocker à la Monsieur, The Moscow Mule, and Satan's Whiskers are each presented with: Historical background on its origin and cultural context Drink Notes that provide additional information on ingredients and tips for substitutions and variations Fascinating historical ephemera from Dr. Cocktail's personal collection This homage to the great bartenders of the past and the beverages they created also profiles some of the most influential cocktail pioneers of today. For anyone who enjoys an icy drink and an unforgettable tale, this is a must-have volume.

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the last word cocktail history: Cheers to Michigan Tammy Coxen, Lester Graham, 2019-08-29

Cheers to Michigan is a toast to cocktail culture in the Mitten and the state's flourishing craft cocktail and distillery movements. Based on Cheers!, Lester Graham and Tammy Coxen's popular cocktail segment on Michigan Radio (NPR), this book gathers forty-five of the authors' favorite cocktail recipes celebrating the Great Lakes State—its history, its people, its culture, even its weather! Throughout, the authors mix in dashes of Michigan's fascinating drinking history, entertaining profiles of award-winning cocktail bars, distilleries, and individual spirits from the region, as well as helpful tidbits for preparing top-shelf cocktails on your own. Learn how to mix a Bullshot, the Detroit-born cocktail containing Campbell's Beef Broth—Marilyn Monroe famously called the drink "a horrible thing to do to vodka." Or try out the authors' Whiskey Sour recipe honoring the true story of Valentine Goesaert, a Dearborn woman who challenged the constitutionality of a Michigan law prohibiting female bartenders and in 1948 took her case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Whether you're a fan of whiskey, gin, or vodka—of the latest cocktail trends or all-time classic drinks—there's something in this book for all tastes. What's constant is that each drink showcases a uniquely Michigan twist, making this book perfect for anyone who loves the state, its history and culture, or simply the delicious, delightful, and distinctive cocktails it has inspired.

the last word cocktail history: <u>Drinking with the Saints (Deluxe)</u> Michael P. Foley, 2022-03-15 It's the full-color edition of Drinking with the Saints! Recipe for a liturgically correct cocktail: mix Bartender's Guide and Lives of the Saints, shake well, garnish with good cheer. Drinking with the Saints is a concoction that both sinner and saint will savor. Michael Foley offers the faithful drinker witty and imaginative instruction on the appropriate libations for the seasons, feasts, and saints' days of the Church year.

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the last word cocktail history: Botanical Bar Craft Cassandra Elizabeth Sears, 2024-11-07 For cocktail enthusiasts, herbalists, foragers, and bartenders, Botanical Bar Craft serves up original, spirited recipes and invaluable plant knowledge, inspired by adventures in the garden and forest. In Botanical Bar Craft, innovative herbalist and mixologist Cassandra Sears invites readers to create herbal elixirs and apothecary cocktails infused by a close connection to nature. Whether in the garden, the field, or the forest, Sears finds generous abundance among the plants. Her tonic libations harness the power of phytochemistry and place-based consciousness while easing stress and comforting the body, mind, and spirit. With original recipes that tie together the creative arts of herbal medicine and craft cocktail making, Sears blends herbal tinctures, teas, and botanical infusions into modern-classic cocktails as well as sensational and unique nonalcoholic drinks that hit the spot for relaxation without sedation. More than just a collection of recipes, Botanical Bar Craft is also an herbal handbook for bartenders and a mixology guide for herbalists. Readers will delight in the journey as Sears combines dashes of herbal lore and history with instructions for developing the spirited philosophy of apothecary bartending, lessons on mixology, and a primer on the beneficial actions of medicinal herbs. Inside Botanical Bar Craft, you'll also find: 65 original recipes for potions, tonics, elixirs, and cocktails, including Kava Cacao Flip, Pregnancy Punch, Victory Garden, Bloody Botanist, Bitters and Soda, Juice of Life, and Euphoria. More than 40 plant profiles that include how those plants grow and suggestions for how to use them behind the bar to draw out their beneficial actions. An accessible explanation of the chemistry and energetics of medicinal herbs. Behind-the-scenes interviews with artisan distillers. Advice and tips for growing a garnish garden. This book will not only appeal to herbalists, herbal enthusiasts, and home cocktail enthusiasts, but also to professional bartenders looking to embrace the use of innovative and highly flavorful natural ingredients in their bar creations. Botanical Bar Craft provides all the answers for those who are curious and wondering how to make a really good drink inspired by and infused with plants. "Unique among cocktail books—it helps readers reconnect their creative selves with the natural environment and healing plants. . . [Sears] equips you with the proper bar techniques to harness the power and fleeting beauty of your surroundings."—Brian Catapang, bar director and co-owner at Magnus on Water

the last word cocktail history: Mezcal Emma Janzen, 2017-07-14 NOMINATED FOR THE 2018 JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION AWARD IN BEVERAGES! Emma Janzen is your guide to the bartender's best kept secret, the spirit everyone has been missing out on and it's called Mezcal. See what sets this cousin of tequila apart from the rest of the pack. Produced in Mexico for centuries but little known elsewhere until recent years, mezcal has captured the imagination of spirits enthusiasts with its astonishing complexities. And while big liquor is beginning to jump aboard the bandwagon, most mezcal is still artisanal in nature, produced using small-batch techniques handed down for generations, often with agave plants harvested in the wild. â??Join author Emma Janzen through Mezcal as she presents an engaging primer on all things related to the spirit; its long history, the craft of distilling it, and a thorough guide to many of the most common agaves used in production and how they shape the resulting spirit. In addition, top mezcal bars across the United States and Mexico contribute a selection of nearly fifty cocktails that accentuate its distinguishing qualities. Beautifully produced and authoritatively written, Mezcal is the definitive guide to exploring and unraveling the mysteries of this extraordinary handcrafted spirit. An Editors' Pick for Amazon Best Books of the month of July 2017.

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