

Throw backs

Every decade of the 20th century made its mark on cocktail culture—and you can still find a taste of each today

Photographs by **Mackenzie Stroh**
Styled by **Bradley Goreski**

1900s **The Gibson**

Liquor legend has it that Charles Dana Gibson—the *Life* magazine illustrator who created the tiny-waisted Gibson Girls—walked into the Players Club one night and told bartender Charley Connolly to drop a pearl onion into his dry martini. Thus, the Gibson was born. Raymond Wemmlinger, the Players Club librarian, says Gibson “was a member from 1891 to 1903, and Connolly was a bartender at the time, so it seems likely.” A century later, the Players Club bar still dispenses the cult classic, but to members and their guests only. You can, however, find private-club ambience at the **Blue Bar** (59 W 44th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves, 212-810-6800) inside the Algonquin Hotel. Built in 1902, it reopens July 30 after a month’s closure for renovation. Devotees can also channel the spirit of the times at parlor-style lounge **The Dove** (pictured; 228 Thompson St between Bleeker and 3rd Sts, 212-251-1435), where a behemoth Gibson is only \$9. And the space that now houses **Amuse** (108 W 18th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves, 212-929-9755) was purportedly an early-1900s hangout for silent-film actors, who today would recognize the gleaming mahogany bar, but not the \$11 price tag for a rose-petal-and-cucumber-accented Hendricks Gibson.
—*Clare Lambé*

“A well-made martini or Gibson, correctly chilled and nicely served, has been more often my true friend than any two-legged creature.”

—*M.F.K. Fisher, journalist and author of *The Art of Eating**

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