

PUNCH



No More Sleeping in Taxis, and Other Drinking Resolutions

A handful of our favorite drinkers look back at 2018 to determine what they absolutely won't (and will) do again.

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he thing about resolutions is that they're always twofold: Mapping our intentions for the year ahead is as much about balancing vices as it is championing virtues.

As drinkers, we know that well, and the annual wiping clean of our proverbial slates is rarely without a few foggy memories. But as we reflect on the year's highs and lows, we're also given the opportunity to get truly excited about what's to come—to think bigger, to drink smarter and to seek out more of what we genuinely like. It's why so many of our intentions to “drink less of this” are coupled with an addendum to “drink more of that.” Because let's face it: the boozier the resolution, the more fun it is to keep.

So, as we close the book on 2018—a year in which, frankly, many of us consumed a great deal more than we'd intended—we at PUNCH decided to check in with a few of our friends in the worlds of food and drink to ask how they'll be drinking come 2019.

Abigail Gullo | Beverage Director, Ben Paris at The State Hotel

As I am moving to Seattle, I resolve to become an expert in Pacific Northwest wine. I am going to literally drink it all in and visit as many wineries as I can. Time to become a full blown sommelier. I also resolve to immerse myself in the Vancouver cocktail scene and Tinder the F outta that city until I get a Canadian boyfriend. It's a modern U.S. escape plan.

Abigail Gullo | Head Bartender, Compère Lapin

photo: LIZZIE MUNRO





hough she moved to New Orleans just five years ago, Abigail Gullo was quick to become an influential voice within the city's historic cocktail culture, first at SoBou and now at Compère Lapin.

Like many bartenders, Gullo never sought a career mixing drinks. As a New York-based theater teacher and off-Broadway actress, she began experimenting with cocktails at home, having become fascinated with the stories behind her favorite spirits. Before long, she'd landed a position at Brooklyn's Fort Defiance, a bar fittingly inspired (at least in hindsight) by the city she would come to call home. From there, her one-time hobby transitioned rather seamlessly into a full-time career, and she into a New Orleans native.

Of course, there's plenty that she wishes she'd known five years ago. And while her adoptive city has served her one of the best meals of her life, it's also been the cause of her worst-ever drinking experience. Here, Gullo shares the weirdest cocktail experiment she's ever attempted, her go-to drink in a dive bar and her best unsolicited dick pic. —*Lizzie Munro*

What do want to be when you grow up?

Julia Child, but with cocktails.

Best thing you ever drank:

Six-month-old rye whiskey straight from the barrel. It was poured by friend who was making the first batch of rye at his family's distillery in two generations. There was so much hope and history in that glass.

Worst thing you ever drank:

A Jester Daiquiri on Bourbon Street. I didn't even feel drunk, just possessed. I tried to make it better by pouring Champagne on it. Would you believe it made it even worse?

First time you ever got drunk:

At my cousin's engagement party on rum and cokes. I remember spinning my little cousins round and round on the dance floor and then the room kept spinning even when I stopped.

If you had to listen to one album on loop, for the rest of your life, what would it be?

The Joshua Tree. There is a bluegrass version I love.

What's the weirdest hobby you currently have or have had?

I had a minor obsession with ice skaters from the former Soviet Union in the 1980s and '90s

What do you know now that you wish you'd known five years ago?

Buy a house in NOLA. It will be cheaper than rent and you *will* make enough money for the mortgage.

Weirdest cocktail experiment you've ever attempted:

I am not too crazy. But I guess it was the Bloody Mary jello mold at a crazy '60s weird food party my friends tried. Nope. Just nope. My cheese ball came out awesome, however.

What's your favorite thing to do when you're not eating, drinking or drink-making?

Snuggling with my dog, Ronnie Magic.

Weirdest drink request you've ever gotten:

A virgin Sazerac.

Your favorite bar, and why:

Any bar where there is a good friend on the other side.

Best meal you've ever had:

Oh, it's a little bit everywhere! Bread at Joël Robuchon in Paris, Turtle soup at Commander's Palace, spinach roll at George's Pizza on 181st Street, my dad's salad, my mom's Boston Cream Pie.

What's your go-to drink in a cocktail bar?

A Sidecar.

In a dive bar?

A glass of whiskey.

Your preferred hangover recovery regime:

Movies, making a big meal and snacking on it all day long.

The one thing you wish would disappear from drink lists forever:
Branded drinks.

The last text message you sent:
An unsolicited dick pic. Totally safe for work.



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