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[NY HEARD & SCENE](#)

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## King Cocktail's Classic Mix

The Manhattan Cocktail Classic kicked off Friday night with a gala at the New York Public Library. The party for 2,500 cocktail enthusiasts required about 25,000 glasses — more than were available in New York, so the party company had to bring in glasses from other states.



Dale Groff, aka King Cocktail  
"surroundings of substance." He also likes

Mr. DeGroff is credited with inventing the Cosmopolitan, but he said he just changed the recipe to make it taste good. The Cosmo is still the most popular drink world-wide, said Mr. DeGroff. The only people who sniff at it are "a bunch of sophisticated new Yorkers who hang around Keith McNally restaurants."

—Melanie Grayce West

Dale DeGroff, aka King Cocktail, author and mentor to legions of bartenders and home enthusiasts, is an advisory board member for the Classic. He was on hand all weekend teaching seminars, including one on champagne cocktails.

He'd like to see the Sazerac—a mix of whiskey, bitters and simple syrup—and the Ramos Gin Fizz make a serious comeback, but he'd be so happy if "someone could make me a Whiskey Sour right."

Mr. DeGroff's drink is a gin Martini, a Sazerac, or white wine. He especially likes Rieslings from Alsace.

When he's in New York, he drops into McSorley's for its Pegu Club, Flatiron Lounge and the original P.J. Clarke's, where