

KATIE VAN LUCHENE says one of her first sensory memories involves spirits. “I remember the sound of adult laughter around my Aunt Dorothy’s downstairs bar, Christmas tunes on the stereo, the aroma of turkey and rolls, the taste of a whiskey-macerated cherry from my dad’s Manhattan and the pale green color of Mom’s Grasshopper. I’ll always equate a good cocktail with those times.”

Now, as executive editor of *KC Magazine*, Katie imbibes in well-crafted drinks at local establishments and calls it her journalistic duty. The magazine features articles on wine and spirits written by guest columnists, including Ryan Maybee, and one of its most hotly contested “Annual City’s Best” awards is for top bartender.

She also spends valuable research time at upscale lounges, popular bars and seedy dives for her book, *Insiders’ Guide to Kansas City*, now in its fourth edition. Katie is married to her favorite mixologist, Jerry Founds, who wooed her with the perfect margarita and frequently tests the skills of bartenders by ordering a classic martini with a four-to-one-mix. “And an extra olive for my wife, please.”