

A Hamburger Today

Topeka, Kansas: Bobo's Drive-In on Guy Fieri's 'Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives'

Posted by Adam Kuban, May 14, 2008



As [EICapitan points out](#) in an AHT comment, **Bobo's Drive-In**, one of my favorite burger joints, went in for the star treatment Monday night on **Guy Fieri's** Food Network show *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives* or, as it's sometimes known, DDD.

I'd been on the fence about Fieri since I started watching his show. He sometimes seems to condescend a bit to the TV audience and the folks he's profiling. But after watching him in action at Bobo's, I've come around. He really manages to convey the specialness of this old-school Topeka, Kansas, drive-in burger joint. And when he picked up on my favorite quality of Bobo's burgers—the great crisp crust seared into it on the hot flat top griddle—my reservations slipped away. After the jump, peep the vid.



Factoids

1953: Bob Bobo started serving his aunt and mom's original recipes at his eponymous drive-in.

May 2007: Richard and Tricia Marsh [buy the place](#) from Bob Humes, who owned it for 19 years. They had no food-business experience but had the original recipes and as longtime fans vowed not to change a thing.

Experienced Staff: It includes one woman who's been there since 1958 as well as 34-year veteran and night

manager Betty Ramsey, who moved to Topeka from England and has a charming accent that's a peculiar blend of British and Kansas accents.

The Smash: The secret behind the great crust? The smash-down.

Awesome Onion Rings: Guy reveals almost all the secrets behind the really good rings—except the exact recipes.

The Spanish Burger: Says Guy, "A Spanish Burger, made by a woman from England, in Kansas. That's kinda like the U.N. of food." And, "It's kinda like a sloppy joe but without being ground up."

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[On Smashburger and Smashed Burgers in General](#)

Bobo's Drive-In

2300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka KS 66604 ([map](#))

785-234-4511

Short Order: Fresh, not frozen. Coarse grind. Thin patties with a salty crisp exterior. Make yours a double

You Want Fries With That? Beats me. I never get them here. Why? Because the onion rings are awesome

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