AN AMATEUR’S GUIDE TO BAR ETIQUETTE

The Vortex offers one of the most extensive selections of beer and spirits to be found anywhere in Atlanta, so we can understand why you might decide to come hang out at our bar. If you don’t normally spend much time in bars, we would like to offer the following information as a guideline of appropriate behavior, whether in The Vortex or at any other bar in town. If you already know the ropes we hope you will find this information entertaining.

PROVIDING IDENTIFICATION

Never give anyone at a bar a hard time when they ask to see your ID. “How old do you think I am?” is a stupid question. No one working at a bar wants to guess your age, but they are always required to verify it. By law, you must have valid ID to consume alcohol in a bar, no matter how old you are. So if you didn’t bring your ID with you, and are denied access, or refused a drink, it’s your own damned fault for being a dumb-ass. Who doesn’t carry ID? Bar owners don’t create the liquor laws, but they are required to obey them. And so are you.

CHOOSING A BEVERAGE

Chatting about drinks with the bartender is fine when business is slow, but if a bar is busy, be ready to order when you are approached. Questions like, “What’s a good shot?” or “What beers do you have?” are silly and time consuming. At The Vortex we’ve tried to make it easy for you. If you don’t know what you want, just review this Liquor Menu. Our selection is extensive, so you should be able to find something you like.

ORDERING FROM THE BARTENDER

Once you have the bartender’s attention, don’t say anything stupid like, “I’ll have a gin and tonic, and make it strong.” This kind of comment not only calls into question the bartender’s ability to make a drink, but it also makes you look like a cheap idiot. If you want a double, ask for a double—and be prepared to pay for a double. And never snap your fingers or whistle at the bartender. They are not your dog.

PAYING FOR YOUR DRINK

If you are ordering “cash & carry,” at the bar, have your money ready. Fumbling for your wallet or purse prevents the bartender from waiting on others. If you’ll be having more than one drink, you should probably start a tab. Paying for a $3.00 Pabst Blue Ribbon with a credit card is really annoying, so use cash.

TIPPING FOR SERVICE

You should tip your bartender on every single drink, without exception, and probably more than you tip now. Don’t bother with fractions or coins, because if you can hear your tip hit the bar, you are being way too cheap. Tipping is how bartenders earn their living, so they appreciate patrons who tip appropriately. Bartenders have the memory of an elephant. They know who tips well and who doesn’t. Right or wrong, this can make a big difference in the quality of your service. To make it simple, just leave a couple of bucks per drink or tip at least 20%, whichever amount is higher.

PACING YOURSELF

Few things are as embarrassing as getting “cut-off” at your favorite bar. So do everyone a favor, and cut yourself off before you show your ass. Your friends should help you avoid this. If they don’t, you need new friends. If you insist on acting like a jackass when you drink, then you should probably only drink on St. Patrick’s Day, Cinco de Mayo and New Year’s Eve. Those are official “Amateur Nights,” so you’ll have plenty of company. For the record, barfing in a bar is the epitome of amateur behavior. If you’re not celebrating your 21st birthday, you really should be ashamed of yourself. Someone has to clean that shit up you know. Let the self-loathing begin.

DRIVING WHEN IMBIBING

If you plan on doing some drinking, always designate a driver. Or ask us to call you a taxi. We’re happy to do it. We also support the use of ride sharing services like Uber and Lyft. In Georgia, driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08% is an automatic DUI. It’s not worth the risk or the hassle. Trust us. Waking up in your own warm bed in the morning is much better than waking up in county jail. Be safe. Be smart. Never drive impaired.

CUSTOMER NOTICE:

The Vortex is not in business to provide free samples, so if you order a beer, wine or spirit that you absolutely hate, that’s a real shame. We don’t brew, ferment, distill or bottle any of it. We just sell it. And cocktails that are prepared correctly may not be returned because you “just don’t like it.” So get ready to suck it up, crybaby.