

INTRODUCTION

“So a guy walks into a bar and asks the bartender.....” How many jokes have you heard start out that way. The bartender is the main focus of any commercial bar. Forget about the waitresses. Sure they bring the drinks, but the bartender has to make them. Forget about the fry cooks serving up greasy fries. It’s the bartender who has made you crave them.

Bartenders have enjoyed a long and storied history. They are the psychiatrists that you don’t have to have an appointment for. They are the ones you hear all the best jokes from. They are the ones who show you the neatest bar tricks to impress your friends. The bartender, for some people, is the best friend they never had.

Tending bar is more than just pouring a cold draught beer or mixing up a mean screwdriver. With all the new drink combinations out these days, bartenders must be up on all the new terminology not to mention having the ability to mix up an Alabama Slammer without looking in the recipe book.

Bartending schools are popping up all over the country. Lured by the enticement of cash tips for serving the drunken public, bartending has been elevated to an art form. When the movie “Cocktail” came out, bartenders sought out the ability to twirl bottles and throw them up in the air as the bottle pours a perfect shot before it lands softly in their hand. Few can argue this is something not the everyday Joe can do.

Whether you aspire to the “Cocktail” fame made popular by Tom Cruise, or if you just want to have an impressive home bar, this book will explore all aspects of tending bar.

We’ll tell you how to have a well-stocked home bar and a well-stocked commercial bar. We’ll explain some of the terminology associated with partaking of alcoholic beverages and provide you with many of the most popular recipes requested on Spring Break or in your local pub.

Better than that, we'll give you some pretty impressive bar tricks you can use and some cutting edge jokes that will have your customers or friends rolling on the floor – and not just because they just did their 10th tequila shot!

Bartending for Beginners will be everything you need and more. So, let's get started in the bar business!

THE PROFESSIONAL BARTENDER

A bartender is someone who serves beverages behind a licensed bar to paying customers. A bartender can also be called a barkeep or a barmaid. Bartenders are found in bars, pubs, taverns, nightclubs and other such places.

The bartender mixes and serves drinks, and the majority of drinks a bartender is making contain alcohol, such as beer, wine, liquor, liqueur, coolers and cocktails. They also serve water, juice, pop and other non-alcoholic beverages for customers who do not wish to drink alcohol such as a designated driver or a non drinker.

As well as make and serve drinks, the bartender is also responsible for taking payment for drinks (either from customers, waiters or waitresses), keeping the liquor supplies and glassware stocked, keeping the bar area clean, maintaining enough ice and garnishes on hand and serving food to customers sitting at the bar, if the bar offers food for sale.

Often, the bartender is expected to dress appropriately to add to the atmosphere of the bar. In some establishments, the bar tender might participate in flair bartending, which contributes to the entertainment in the bar.

Bartenders are expected to be able to mix hundreds of types of drinks to please any paying customer in a quick, accurate and non-wasteful fashion. In some establishments, such as a busy nightclub, the bartender is only expected to serve the customer a drink and

nothing else. In a smaller place such as a tavern however, the bartender might be expected to be a good listener, and allow the customers to have a shoulder to cry on.

All bartenders should be friendly, however, and enjoy having contact and communication with customers. Good bartenders have a way of attracting regular customers. Good bartenders like this will remember the favored drink of regular customers; have drink recommendations on hand or recommendations for other bars, as well as several other unofficial duties.

In most countries, tipping is expected of the customer, and this is how the bartender gets the majority of his income, as most bartenders are paid minimum wage.

In some places, minors are allowed in bars, and it is the bartender's responsibility to check for identification before serving them alcohol.

If this sounds like a lot of work, with not much reward, look on the bright side. You are working at an establishment that serves gallons of liquor each day, and you are in charge of it. The job of bartender is management, customer service, and so much more! Even a bartending job looks good on a resume when you present it in the proper way!

Before you start to tend bar – whether it's as a job or in your own home, a good grasp of liquor terms can be a great asset.