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Bartending Job Interview Preparation Guide.

Question #1

Tell me in a bar full of customers, how do you decide on priority?

Answer:-

I usually go from left to right while acknowledging to all customers that I am working on their orders. In some situations, I even work on first-come-first served basis.

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Question # 2

Tell me can you work on rotating shifts?

Answer:-

Yes! I am enthusiastically willing to work during nights and weekends.

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Question #3

Tell me when you go above and beyond for a customer and they don't tip well, how do you handle it?

Answer:

Well it certainly is the customers right decide for themselves how much they will tip the bartender. I would probably review my service and interactions with that person in my head to make sure I weren't at fault in some way, but other than that, there is no sense lingering on such a non issue. I accept that tips are not gauranteed and that not every customer is a good tipper; as a good bartender, I feel I owe the guest good service regardless.

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Question # 4

Tell me how do you use your time on a slow shift?

Answer:-

I am equally comfortable with slower periods as I am with busy times. During busy times its important to provide guests with efficient friendly service while maintaining an ambiance but you dont have much time to build repiore with your customers. Slow times allow you the opportunity to build the relationships that turn casual customers into regulars. One of my favorite parts of being a bartender is knowing my customers feel genuinely cared for.

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Question # 5

Explain what techniques do you use to upsell?

Answer:-

If some one ask for a drink and spent prefer them brand then ask them if they like it with premium liquiors. Also, u ca also tell them it's a spread more but taste a lot better.

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Question # 6

Explain how do you engage with customers while making and serving drinks?

Answer:

This is difficult to do because you need to divide your attention. In order to do this well it requires muscle memory so you act without thinking and can listen and respond in a conversation.

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Question #7

Tell me do you object to taking a drug test?

Answer:-



This question may seem like it has a straight-forward answer, but really, it doesn't. In fact, while we don't mean any disrespect to Bob the Bar Guy, this seems like a particularly odd request for bartender interviews.

Of course you want drug-free employees in the workplace, but since you're running a bar, a drug test doesn't make much sense. According to Norml.com, while urinallysis tests are particularly sensitive to marijuana, they aren't as effective at reporting recent harder drug use, and they don't show alcohol results at all. You could be hiring an alcoholic as a bartender, and your drug test would do nothing to warn you of that.

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Question #8

Tell me why Do You Like Bartending?

Answer:-

Because I think it's important. After a weeks work, people need somewhere to unwind so they can to do it all over again the following week. Bars are where a lot of people go to do that, and seeing as they're willing to spend the money they worked all week for, I think it's really important that they're given great service. I get a kick out of providing that service.

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Question #9

How to make a Negroni?

Answer:-

I'd use 1 part Tanqueray - because I like to use a premium gin, but nothing as distinct as Hendricks or Tanq 10 where you're just going to lose the flavour when you add the Campari - I'd use 1 part Campari - Aperol is an ok substitute, but it's just not the real thing - and then I'd use 1 part Cinzano Rosso - I think it has a bolder flavour than Martini Rosso, so it'll stand out better in a cocktail. I'd put all that into a double rocks glass, easy ice, and then with a cocktail stirrer give it a good stir for about 15 seconds, so the customer gets the well mixed, well balanced cocktail they expect when they order a Negroni. Then I'd finish it off with an orange twist.

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Question # 10

Explain me about a difficult customer you had to handle and what you did to resolve the situation?

Answer-

Have a story ready from your first job. For example, your first burger flipping job during high school when you were trying to save up for college. Let's say that you had a customer that came in and always wanted to special order a burger - and it was always during peak times when you were busy in the kitchen which slowed everything down. So, you talked to the customer and made him a deal. You told him that as soon as you saw him come in, you would start his special order burger with the next set of meat you put on the grill. He would simply order the same way and then step to the side and wait for his burger. This way, I was able to start his special order when I was ready and it didn't take a half hour for him to explain his order and for the cashier to find a way to punch it in.

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Question # 11

Tell me, I enjoy mixing drinks for myself, should I start bartending as a career?

Answer:

Bartending is often a difficult lifestyle to maintain. With odd hours, and an environment fueled by liquor and flirting, it can take a strain on ones personal life. Take a few minutes to read through some past threads posted about bartending as a career.

Read More Answers.

Question # 12

As you know there are numerous opportunities for bartenders available in the market at the present time. Why do you want to work with us?

Answer:

I researched a lot about different options but your company appealed the most to me because it offers the best services to guests in the town. In addition, you provide excellent opportunities for employee development and career growth which is not comparable to any of your competitors.

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Question # 13

Tell me for serving customers what personal traits do you think a bartender should possess?

Answer-

A bartender needs to have an outgoing, friendly, patient, courteous and extrovert personality for excellent customer service. In addition, s/he must be punctual, organized and tidy.

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Question # 14

Tell me are you comfortable with wearing bar uniform?

Answer:

Yes! It would be a great pleasure for me.

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Question # 15

Suppose you see a fight start across the bar, do you act or wait until the bouncers take care of it?

Answer:-



If the bouncers are close, stay behind the bar. Bartenders are not bouncers. If no bouncers are around, a nice bucket of ice water dumped over them with a loud "Cool it boys!" should do it

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Question # 16

Suppose your car breaks down on the way to work, what would you do?

Answer:

I would see how much time I have to get to work. If I have someone I can call immediately I would make the arrangements and notify my manger immediately. If nobody is available, I would call to see if they have someone who could take my shift or stay til I get there and call a tow truck. (who usually will drop you off in my area)

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Question #17

How to make a Washington Apple?

Answer:-

Equal parts Crown Royal and Sour Apple Schnapps with a one count of cranberry juice added.

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Question # 18

Suppose you were an ice cream flavor, what would you be?

Answer-

I would be the neapolitan flavor. Since there is chocolate, vanilla and strawberry, there is something for everybody. Similarly, there are various aspects to my personality and I feel that I can relate to all people on some level.

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Question # 19

Tell Us What Would You Recommend As An After-Dinner Drink?

Answer-

My usual instinct is to go straight for the speciality hot drinks, but I also like to sell regular hot drinks with a shot on the side such as Sambuca, Frangelico, or Baileys. I also love recommending a brandy too, something to swirl and savour as they let everything digest.

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Question # 20

Do you know in a nutshell, what is bartending?

Answer:

In fact, bartending means helping customers with the menu selection, taking their orders and serving food & beverages in a welcoming, courteous and efficient way to attain the utmost level of guest satisfaction. It also includes mixing and garnishing beverages, keeping bar well-stocked and organized, and maintaining cleanliness of bar area.

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Question # 21

Tell me how do you make a White Russian?

Answer:

In a rocks glass pour a one and a half ounces of vodka, half ounce of kahlua and a splash of cream.

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Question # 22

Explain me about your previous work experience?

Answer:-

I like to keep things simple in this regard, manners will get you a long way, if I see any shoving I will not be helpful to them, but it will always be first come first served. If there is a line across the bar, depending on which station I am at I would probably sweep left to right. Also if it is at all possible, take more then one drink order at a time. Ask if anyone is buying a single drink and if they are serve the 'singles' at the same time.

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Question # 23

Tell me do you have any flaring techniques?

Answer:

Yes I have a giant shaker that I pull out whenever I have big groups in the bar and I use it when they order shot so I can get other groups to order a group shot.

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Question # 24

Tell me how Long Have You Been Bartending?



Answer:-

Four years total: Two years to begin with at Johs Cocktail Bar, one year at Will's restaurant, and then most recently a year at Sam's Pub.

Question # 25

What are your strength and weaknesses as Bartender?

The trick question. Go ahead and brag about what you're good at. "I'm a great conversationalist and can find something in common with the other person quickly" or "I am very punctual, and that spills over into all my work, including returning to customers and checking up on them regularly" or "I have a very strong work ethic and take pride in what I do".

When you highlight your weaknesses, remember they play on your strengths. For example, "I tend to be a bit of a perfectionist and may spend a little too much time perfecting something" or "I'm full of ideas and sometimes I see what I think is a more efficient way of doing things and make suggestions to coworkers that they may not want to hear" or "sometimes if its a little slow in the bar, I get engrossed in a conversation with a customer and find it hard to cut it off politely so that I can take care of my other responsibilities.

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Question # 26

Important Bartender Job Interview Questions:

Answer:-

- * What is your experience in the hospitality industry?
- * What kind of bars you visit in your free time?
- * Describe the most stressful job you've done so far?
- * Do you play any sports?
- * If is a large crowd at the bar, in what order you will serve your guests?
- * Describe the benefits of working in a team and specify your own positive example of teamwork in solving some problem?
- * How would you know that your guest drank too much alcohol?
- * How would you act if you have a drunk guest who offend you?
- * Have you ever worked with a professional bartender and whether you are willing to engage in such a training?

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Question # 27

Operational and Situational Bartending Job Interview Questions:

Answer:-

- * What do you like about bartending?
- * How would you describe our customers?
- * What kinds of customers are you used to serving?
- * Describe any training or experience you have in bartending.
- * What alcohol safety training do you have, if any?
- * What's your favorite drink to make?
- * Where do you go for a good cocktail?
- * What drink would you pair with [our specialty dish]?
- * How would you make an Old Fashioned?
- * What dessert drinks would you recommend?
- * What would you do if one of your patrons has clearly had too much to drink?
- * What would you do if you suspected that an underage person was using a borrowed ID?

 * What would you do if you knew you were going to be more than an hour late to work?
- * How would you keep yourself busy during a slow night?
- * Describe a time you turned a negative situation with a customer into a positive one.
- * What's your approach to upselling?
- * A customer sends their drink back. How would you handle it?
- * How do you handle substitutions to drink ingredients?
- * Describe a time you resolved a problem with an angry customer.
- * What would you do if your coworker wasn't doing their share of the work?
- * What would you do if you knew you were going to be more than an hour late to work?
 * Have you been a patron at our bar before? What was your experience? How can we improve?

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Question # 28

Explain and compare yourself with your previous co-workers and rate your customer service ability. Explain why?

On a scale of one to ten I would rate myself between eight and nine because I had always been able to make my customers satisfied utilizing high quality hospitality and customer service skills. As compared to my co-workers I never received any complaints. On member-customers' ratings I always scored the highest resulting in being awarded 'Best CSR providing bartender' thrice.

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Question # 29

As you know most people would love to bartend, in fact, if I make a craigslist post right now I would get 50 responses, why are you deserving of this?

Because I have the ability to engage and interact with others on a personal level and make them feel comfortable. I understand the difference between someone who is at the bar and wants to be left alone, and someone who is there and wants the watch the game and engage in a conversation about how good Louisville is going to be this year. My experience in politics, theatre, and customer service allows me to read people extremely well.



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Question #30

Tell me your drawer is \$44.21 short, how would you explain this? What would you do to correct something like this in the future?

Answer-

I would double check my tabs and recount my drawer to see if the source of the mistake occured, replace the shortage with my own tips. in the furture i would sure that I am the only one ringing the registar with my number and be sure to parctice company proceedure for cashing out every tab to ensure the mistake doesnt reoccur.

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Question # 31

Suppose a customer said his drink wasn't strong enough, what would you do?

Answer:-

Bartenders agree that anger and frustration looms large when a customer questions the amount of alcohol in a drink, so this answer would be answered "correctly' when the interviewee honestly states their reaction and talks about their customer service follow-up. An "incorrect" answer would include either:

- * Confronting the customer and making a scene (you do not want prima-donna bartenders on your staff)
- * Overpouring the next drink (that would be another form of bartender theft)

Because your bar's reputation is built on the strength of the customer service you and your bartenders offer, make sure that the person you are interviewing understands that the most important thing to do when a customer is unhappy is to respond politely, but firmly.

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Question # 32

Tell Me What Would You Pair With Our House Burger?

Answer:-

It would heavily depend on what the customer has ordered up to the point of ordering the burger, but in general I'd go with something dark and full flavoured to compliment the taste and texture of the burger. If the customer was a beer drinker, I might offer a Pale Ale, if they were a wine drinker I'd go with an American Red, and if they were more into spirits, I might just suggest a sweet highball, but recommend they have it served tall with easy ice, so there's a constant refreshment while they work through the meal

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Question # 33

Explain how would you handle a shortage of cash in your drawer at the end of your shift?

Answer:-

It has happened with me once when on a very busy night I missed a payment from a customer. I paid from my own pocket because it was my responsibility. Since then, I make sure that each customer pays before he leaves the premise.

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Question #34

Tell me we require you to come in an hour before busy time, and stay an hour after we close to clean, is that okay?

Answer:

Yes, absolutely. Thats first hour is alwasy a good time for stocking the bar, cleaning and getting into the swing or things- and at night I would rather stay and clean and know that the bar is already from e when I or the next person comes in the next day... its always nice to start your day in a clean bar.

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Question # 35

Suppose you caught another bartender stealing, what would you do?

Answer:

There are a lot of ways your bartenders can steal from you, including undercharging (in the hopes of a bigger tip); Z-ing out register tape early and not reporting all sales; staging a fake walkout; using personal, smaller jiggers and drinking the difference... the list goes on. It's hard to tell which bartenders would steal from you, and which ones are honest, but this question is a good one to weed out thieves. Thieves hate to be confronted, so asking a question up front to show that you are tough on bar theft will scare many dishonest bartenders away.

Of course, there is no one right answer to this question, but if your interviewee has an answer that you agree with, that's a good sign for you.

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Question #36

Tell me what's Your Favourite Drink To Make?

Answer:-

I know it sounds simple, but I actually love pouring draft beer. Every beer is so different in texture and carbonation, and every tap is different. I love working through all of that and pouring the perfect pint regardless, the kind of pint that makes a customer remember why they should order draught instead of a bottle.

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Question # 37

Tell us according to State and Federal Laws, what implications do you need to take care of?

Answer:-

We need to check the identification cards of the customers for age verification according to the State and Federal Law requirements. In addition, the rule for



maximum consumption limit has to be followed and applied to the customers as well.

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Question #38

Why Do You Want To Work HERE as Bartender?

Answer:

Because this is exactly the kind of place I go to as a customer. I believe that you'll only enjoy working at bars you actually enjoy drinking at. Your customers are the kinds of people I like to hang around with, your staff are the types of people I like to be served by, and your drinks menu is exactly what I like to drink. I think my transition here from one side of the bar to the other would be seamless.

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Question #39

Explain me about the garnishes you enjoy using for various cocktails?

Answer:-

That could run into volumes, but a favorite of mine is to take two wheels, lime, cucumber, etc, slice them to the 1/2 way point, then splice the two together to form the outling of a orb or ball. place this in the empty martini glass upright, then when you pour and straing the cocktail int the glass the garnish suddenly will float and tip over and become a pinwheel or paddle wheel spinning in the drink. a bit gimmiky, but it does add motion to something that generally does not have that quality.

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Question # 40

Tell me what are your qualifications and experience as a bartender?

Answer:-

I attended ABC Bartending School New York before my joining of The Keg and Cork where I worked as a bartender for four years.

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Question # 41

Tell me why did you leave your last bartending job?

Answer-

I was laid off after the owners brought in new management. The new management laid off a large part of the staff and brought in new eployees that they felt better fir the image they were trying to build. I choose view it as am opportunity instead of a set back. I was working in a very trendy and party oriented atmosphere despite having moved out of that phase in my life years before. I have been looking for a better fit and a more mature environment.

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Question # 42

Explain what are the most important characteristics for a bartender to have?

Answer:-

The most important characteristic is customer service skills. As I've seen, most people come to the bar to have fun or relieve stress. I'm naturally a people person so I love meeting new people, talking to others and brightening their day. Another important characteristic is being observant in order to read people, watch how intoxicated guests are becoming and if any altercations are arising.

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Question # 43

Explain what are your key strengths as a bartender?

Answer:-

I have a demonstrated ability to quickly take, prepare and serve all bar orders for beverages and food, greet guests and communicate effectively. Moreover, I am highly skilled in mixing ingredients to prepare cocktails and maintaining the cleanliness of the bar. Besides my regular tasks, I am also able to perform duties of server, in a back-up function as needed.

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Question # 44

Tell me how do you feel about serving drinks in a heavy volume environment?

Answer:

Yes, there have been times when I had to do full service at a completely full bar, (10-12 guests) as well as provide a service bar for the waitstaff at peak dinner hours. In addition to this, there were times I had to come out from the back of the bar to take a few tables when we were understaffed.

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Question # 45

Tell me why Did You Leave Your Last Job as Bartender?

Answer-

I wanted to work at Smiths pub to learn more about Craft Beer, but the end goal was always to work at a bar like this. After a year at Smiths, I felt like I'd taken a great step towards learning about Craft Beer, so I thought it was time to pursue a job in a bar like this.

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Question # 46

Explain how would you manage cash transactions at the counter?

Answer-

By ringing customer checks into the system, collecting cash, recording it and returning change accurately and efficiently. I am also able to process credit/debit card transactions and billings carefully following appropriate company policies and procedures.

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Question # 47

Explain what is your favorite drink with vodka?

Answer:-

That depends on the time of day/occassion. There is almost nothing better than a great bloody mary at a weekend brunch. I think a vodka tonic, or an ice cold vodka martini can be very refreshing and enjoyable before dinner. Other favorites would be a caparinha and the white russian.

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Question # 48

Tell me do you possess any relevant certification?

Answer:-

Yes! I possess:

- * TIPS certification
- * Mixologist training from Brinker International
- * Food Sanitation certificate with 3 months of trainee employment at California State County kitchen

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Question #49

Tell me how do you cut someone off?

Answer:-

- * Appeal to their friends (because if your friend tells you that you've had enough to drink, you're more likely to listen)
- * Lag the time that you come to their table for drinks, but make sure that they have lots of water or soda in the meantime
- * Tell the customer honestly, but nicely, that you think they've had enough

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Question # 50

Tell me how do you avoid serving to minors?

Answer:

Absolutely not. I always check identification before serving, even if I know the person. That makes sure that I'm covered and the the establishment is covered.

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Question # 51

Tell me what serving experience do you have?

Answer:-

My first job was a restaurant server and I stayed in that position for five years. The following position was a restaurant bartender, which I worked for two years. That position allowed me to thoroughly learn what it takes to be a bartender and work in the restaurant industry in general.

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Question # 52

Tell me the differences between a wheat beer, a pale ale and an IPA?

Answer:

Wheat ales are beers made with the addition of wheat. They can vary in style but generally tend to beer less transparent and somewhat heavier than standard ales.

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Question # 53

Tell me do you enjoy socializing with strangers?

Answer:

I enjoy meeting new people everyday, everyone has a story and most can be quite interesting.

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Question # 54

Suppose you see an underage person, what would you do?

Answer:

I would ask him to leave and if I am shown any resistance, I will call my manager or the bouncer depending on the severity of the situation.

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Question # 55

Tell me what should be the major characteristics of a bartender?

Answer-

In my opinion, a bartender is supposed to be a good mannered, sociable and prompt with sense of humor. He must have great attention to detail and able to multitask in a busy environment.

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Question # 56

Tell me how do you decide which customers to serve first when the bar is packed?

Answer:-

First I would recommend a few drinks to help them decide.. they usually go for your choice anyways. However if they were still on the fence I would then ask if they minded if I served the next person while they decide

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Question # 57

Tell us besides making drinks, what roles do you think bartenders serve?

Answer-

Advisor, tour guide, menu consultant, entertainer, armchair therapist, dear abby, cheerleader, mother/father that cares enough to stop the fun to ensure your safety. even if you hate us for it. To cover just a few of the hats a bartender wears.

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Question # 58

Tell me how do you garnish a Manhattan?

Answer:-

Putting zest of it let the oil all around the rim then twist put it in the middle.

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Question #59

Tell me how you properly stir a cocktail?

Answer:

Well in a mixing glass, use bar spoon inserted into the ice then swisel the twisted staff between fingers gently to rotate the base. In a mixed drink, rum and coke example, pour rum then mixer, add swisel stick or stir straw and swirl one rotation around the glass.

0/10

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Question # 60

How to make a Whiskey Sour?

Answer:-

1 1/2 oz american whiskey, (bourbon or rye), 3/4 oz each lemon and simple syrup. Add slightly less than 1/4 oz egg white and dry shake in a boston tin. Add ice and shake again. Strain over ice into a rocks glass, garnish with a lemon wedge and straw

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Question # 61

Tell me what's Your Favourite Drink?

Answer:-

An Old Fashioned with Booker's Bourbon. The overproof strength of Booker's really lets the Bourbon stand out, even after the sugar and bitters are added.

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Question # 62

How to make an Irish Car Bomb?

Answer.

Pour half a shot of Irish creme liqueur into a shot class and pour another half a shot of Irish whiskey on top of the creme liqueur. Pour 3/4 of Guinness into a glass and let settle. drop the shot glass into the the Guinness and chug

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Question # 63

How to make a Johnny Vegas drink?

Answer:-

1/2oz tequila, 1/2 oz watermelon schnapps, 1/2oz red bull, mixed in shot glass.

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Question # 64



How to make a Cosmopolitan Martini?

1/2 oz. of cointreau orange liquer1/2 oz. of vodka1/2 of freshly squeezed limea splash of cranberry juicepour all ingredients in mixing glass half filled with ice, shake and strain in chilled martini glass

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Question # 65

How to make a dirty martini?

2 counts dry vermouth, 6 counts vodka or gin (customer call) shaken, strained add olive juice and garnish with an olive. ne

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- 2: Line Cook Frequently Asked Interview Questions and Answers Guide.
- 3: Restaurant Manager Frequently Asked Interview Questions and Answers Guide.
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