

Restaurant Etiquette

Be courteous to the waiter or waitress. Lean out of the way if they are pouring beverages.

Tipping is a minimum of 15% if reasonable service has been received. In some restaurants, parties of five or more will have gratuity automatically added to the bill. If you ask for the bill to be separate for a party of 5 or more, the gratuity is automatically 20%.

Special helpers such as chefs in a Japanese restaurant should receive a tip.

Do not make telephone calls at meal time.

Do not get up unless absolutely necessary at a banquet.

The head waiter or hostess will show you to the table when you arrive. Men are to follow ladies unless special seating has been predetermined.

Men may hold chairs for the women; if there are no men in the party, the waiter or hostess may hold the chair.

Men should remove their top coats before entering the dining room.

Women should remove coats as they are seated. A purse is never placed on the table.

Women may unobtrusively put on lipstick at table.

Men may order for women if it is not confusing; otherwise, women should order for themselves.

Gifts, such as a box of candy, are appropriate for dinner guests to carry to the hostess.

