



# When hiring a bar service Things to Think about..



**I can't stand that!!!** It's the very reason we do what we do! Let me explain. Recently, I was at a wedding of a high value venue, you know the kind. I was pulled to the bar, and cringed! I felt ashamed, and dismayed as I was looking over the bar, bewildered to see just how little effort went into their bar. I, being the person I am, noticed everything I wouldn't do, it distracted me from the things that maybe they did right. I don't know because it shocked me, the lack of everything! I had to look away. Sure, no one may have noticed, but being this was a wedding for a wedding planner and everyone of her work piers were there, maybe they did? That is when it really it home with me ***"it really does matter who is behind your bar!"***

**From the planning stages to the set up stages, the entire process matters. It matters!**

**Beware of the services that are in and out companies.** A lot of companies are what I call in and out companies. Meaning they come in do their job and leave with little to no thought to anything else. They do very little to plan for your event, most of the time the people working the event are versed on it the day of the event. They pull from whatever they have to set up the bar, leaving the bar looking disheveled, unorganized, quickly put together and décor very blahh! (Is that a word?) I just can't think of a word to describe the lack of effort that goes into these bars.

**Sometimes going with a bigger company that charges less, can cost you more in the long run.** I have found that the larger companies, the one- stop-shop companies, who can charge way less for a bar service per person, is because they deliver way less in customer service and experience. Most of their staff are far from experienced. I once applied for one of these bartending companies and told they did not want anyone from the food and beverage field! That made absolutely no sense to me. For a short time I worked for a well known and larger hotel whose main income is from weddings, they seemed to only find people who "wanted" to be bartenders, but didn't have the experience, which creates so many issues that I just don't have time to go into here. I have heard horror story after horror story from venues on inexperienced bar staff from these types of companies, stories that would make anyone scared. It's important you have a good customer service and experienced people from the beginning to the end, that you know who is going to be at your event and who is handling the bar if any issues to arise.

**Understand the services you are asking of the bar service and what they will need to do to carry out those services.** Think of it this way, let's say you are looking to get a good skin care line, you know if you buy Channel you are going to get Channel pricing, the look, the experience, the quality of product, that is why you pay more for it. Or instead of Channel you decide to go with a more mid-range brand like Este Lauder or Mary Kay, They are just as good if not better, but the price is more doable and the quality is just as good. Or instead you go to TJMaxx to get your skin care, you

know it will be a hell of a lot cheaper, but you have to mix and match, check the packages for damage, and there really is no guarantee the quality is the same or that service will be there. You got exactly what you paid for! The same is true when picking out a bar service and the services they provide.

**Do they care just as much about your bar as you do?** I once had a woman call me and ask me to do her wedding, she told me *“it’s because I can tell you are going to take care of the bar”*, this was a huge compliment to me, because she knew the very thing we try to share with everyone we meet. Every part of the planning is important, from the planning, to the actual bar, to the people who are behind the bar.

**You want a bar service that will take the time to work with you and or the venue or planner to make this a great bar for you!** If you really like a company, don’t be afraid to ask questions, if they can work on the budget, sometimes it’s a matter of getting to a starting point, then tweaking to get to the desires and budget you are looking for. Sometimes it’s a matter you get the product and they provide just the services or if you want them to provide it all, product and services.

**Some things to think about:** Is customer service good from the start? Do they get back to you in a decent amount of time? Do they have experienced and certified staff? Do they handle bar décor and bar menus or are they just there to pour and serve? Will they be willing to go tour the venue to have a better picture of your bar, and get to know the planners, venue coordinators? Do the venues like working with them? Most often “open” venues, that allow outside vendors, absolutely do have a list of whom they will recommend and who they will not work with (again). Don’t be afraid of bar companies that venues have not worked with before, most often they have not worked with them yet, key word “have they worked with them yet?” If not give that company a chance to get in, it might benefit you more than you know. Sometimes it’s not all the big bang stuff that matters; ***sometimes it is whose behind the bar that matters.***



For more information on bar services, what is possible please contact us at [www.dragonflycocktails.com](http://www.dragonflycocktails.com) or reach out to us on social media.

*Who is behind your bar?!*