

# Justin's



## LET'S DO LUNCH

**YOU'VE MANAGED TO LOCKDOWN A LUNCH MEETING WITH SOME CORPORATE BIG WIGS, NOW DON'T BLOW IT WITH ILL TABLE MANNERS!**

OK aspiring entrepreneurs, let's get right to the point! You're at this stage in the game where you are working on negotiating important business deals with a potential client over lunch or dinner at an upscale restaurant. Proper etiquette, although sometimes overlooked, is key in projecting that look of success. "It's very important to be courteous during a business lunch," says Angelo Ellerbee CEO/President of Double XXposure Public Relations, who has been instrumental in

teaching table manners to celebrities such as Mary J. Blige, members of the Wu Tang Clan and DMX, "because it's a way of showing respect not only for yourself, but for your guest and the staff who's serving you." Knowing the difference of glassware and flatware and their intended usage can make the difference between receiving a deal-sealing handshake or a no thanks. So keeping in mind that you may be under scrutiny, here are some table tips to follow. Bon Appetit!

— James F. Lightkey

- Upon being seated, place napkin in your lap. The old adage remains: keep elbows off of the table while eating.
- Depending on table seating, start with the smallest fork furthest to the left. Smallest fork from the left is for salads, larger fork is for entrees.
- Finally, when you are finished, pair up the knife and the fork horizontally or diagonally in the plate. The cutting edge of the blade should be pointing towards you. As for the fork, it can be placed upwards or downwards.
- If you choose not to have an after-meal coffee or tea, turn these items upside down.
- Remember to tip. Tipping is not a city in China! The standard amount is 15%-20% of the bill; you should leave a larger tip if your server did an exceptional job.