



THE FINE ART OF Dining

By Kara Ronin

As a successful salon owner and businessperson, you have probably had the opportunity to attend numerous lunches with colleagues, business partners, or potential clients. As much as dining out at an exclusive restaurant to discuss your new business ventures can be exciting, if you are unfamiliar with basic dining etiquette, your business lunch can quickly turn from entertaining to simply stressful, or potentially embarrassing.

First and foremost, at any dining table, there is no excuse for bad manners. Finger licking, soup

slurping or talking with your mouth full will not only offend your dining partner/s but certainly won't reflect well on your personal or professional image. Aside from basic table manners, there are a few common questions about dining etiquette that can really help you to connect with your dining partner, and impress.

Where do you seat your guest?

Seating arrangements are such an important part of a well-organised business lunch. When your guest is comfortable and relaxed, he or she can focus more on your fabulous conversation and business ideas, and less on the surroundings. If you have extended the invitation, you are the host. As host, you should take care to seat your guest in the most comfortable place at the table. There are two issues to focus on: what is behind your guest, and what do they see in front of them? Generally, we feel more comfortable when seated with our back to a wall, or an object of some kind, and when