# High Protocol Dinner - House Manual

"I am delighted that you are able to join us for this High Protocol Dinner. We hope you thoroughly enjoy the evening and experience." - Mestra

The event is on xxx and starts at 6pm promptly.

#### Address:

Cost: xxx per couple would be graciously accepted. Single prices on request. Please note this is not a profit making exercise, venue hire, cost of alcohol and food etc along with hire of some equipment, and this price is expected to cover our costs.

This manual is intended to provide clarification and guidance for **this particular** High Protocol Dinner, and by following these protocols it is intended to enable the evening to run smoothly. It makes no claims that these would be effective or should be used in your own personal dynamics or relationships.

For the evening, each attendee is expected to assume the role of Diner (Dominant/Owner/Master/Mistress) or server (slave/submissive).

Play and discipline is welcome, and encouraged. House Rules Apply (see attached)

For the dinner, Diners are invited to dress formally. Even if you're not wearing a top hat, or tuxedo, you are expected to dress elegantly and suitably for this occasion. The attire of servers is up to their Diner, or a black and white or fetish theme if attending alone. Revealing or fetish wear is welcomed. COMFORTABLE shoes (or bare feet) are appropriate as servers will be on their feet for a very long time!

On arrival, each Diner should greet each other Diner in an appropriate way (handshake/hug etc). Diners should wait until they have asked and received permission to greet a server if they are partnered for the evening.

ALL guests are to behave and speak respectfully to ALL other guests and attendees at all times with the only exception being the dynamic between each Dominant and their own slave/submissive. Diners will only touch or command another server with permission.

All drinks including alcohol will be provided for the evening. Diners are welcome to facilitate alcoholic beverages for their servers and take full responsibility for their servers alcohol consumption, post dinner driving and behaviour. Unaccompanied servers must receive permission from the House Mistress before drinking alcoholic beverages.

Any meeting out of any disciplinary action for infractions incurred during the evening, prior to the evening, or simply for our shared amusement is welcome and encouraged. Owners/Dominants are

invited to display their slaves/submissives as art or furniture when not in service and at their discretion. There may be games throughout the evening, the games are designed to be fun to watch as well as play. It is not about winning; we are all winners if we laugh and enjoy ourselves. Consent to continue any game (or activity) may be removed at any time by the participant, or their Owner/Dominant.

Each departure is an opportunity to display gratitude, grace, friendship and protocol. On departure, like on arrival, the Diner should attend each of the other Diners in order to bid them goodnight with a handshake or hug etc. Diners should wait until they have asked and received permission to farewell a server.

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# Appendix A - Menu

(subject to change)

## <u> Amuse Bouche - Perfect Bite</u>

A cube of Roasted Potato with Charred Eggplant, Capers, Toasted Pine Nuts and drizzled with Lemon Dill Dressing

## Soup - Tomato

Roast Tomato & Caramelised Onion Soup with Bread Rolls & Butter Optional Spring Onions, Sour Cream, Salt & Pepper

## Salad - Pumpkin & Truffle Cheese

Roasted Pumpkin & Truffle Cheese with Rocket, Prosciutto Crumb and Honey Vinaigrette

### <u> Palate Cleanser - Sorbet</u>

Berry & Lime to cleanse the palate before main is served

## <u> Main - Burgundy Beef Cheeks</u>

Tender Beef Cheeks with Potato Florets, Goats Cheese, Gremolata, Dijon Aioli & a Parmesan Crisp

## <u> Dessert - Chocolate Dome</u>

Melting Chocolate Dome filled with Berries, Passionfruit Cream & Garnished with Mint Leaves

<u>Cheese - Platter</u>

The selection of meats/cheeses will be chosen from the selection below. slaves/submissives are expected to recognise each of these, know which ones are appreciated by their Dom/Domme and select and serve appropriately.

Leg Ham Jalapeno infused Cheese

Charred Eggplant Blue Cheese Camembert
Rice Crackers Apricot and Macadamia Crackers Vegan Cheese
Cherry Tomatoes Pear Slices Goats Cheese

An opportunity for subs/slaves to determine in advance which of these their Diner would enjoy, which to avoid, and how much they would like.

## Coffee & Whiskey

The delineation between the dining part of the evening and additional play.

\*Vegetarian and vegan options available. While kitchen staff will make every effort to ensure a vegan/vegetarian option is available, it is the responsibility of the Diner (and server) to ensure the right options are selected, and the questions are asked at the time.

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# Appendix B - Silver Service Etiquette

With thanks from petals (PetalsK9 on Fetlife)

A popular saying is "Manners maketh man" http://bytesdaily.blogspot.com.au/2015/08/manners-maketh-man.html

#### For the Dominants

I apologise in advance if this seems common sense or is already natural to you, I have written this guide assuming a lowest common denominator; a level of knowledge of zero. Please do not take offense. This will be a wonderful evening, but you will need to be on your toes. The Dominants who are so well versed in reading their slaves/submissives are now required to read a room, its dynamics will allow you to have the ultimate experience if you are prepared. If it was Vanilla, it would be dining verses eating. The opportunity we have is to take dining at its ultimate and times it by 100; with all our slants and quirks to make it an experience we will never forget and for evermore try to emulate.

Most communication with your sub will be nonverbal for the entire formal service. It will entail that your needs are not only met but exceeded. This is an opportunity for your sub/slave to show how well they know you and can preempt your needs and preferences. To be involved either directly or in the presence of these exchanges is an experience few will ever be a part of.

Within our lifestyle choice we value rituals; this form of dining is extremely rich with rituals. If all parties follow them it is like comparing the dances of the Jitterbug [eating] to the Viennese Waltz [dining].

Lastly, the most important thing to remember; this is going to be so much fun with the added bonus of the feeling of satisfaction that the roles of Dom and slave/sub can be explored in another context to an extent that daily life does not facilitate.

For the formal dinner; our House Mistress/Master/Organiser will start the proceedings, slaves/subs will now be in traditional service with a twist.

- There will be a call to table, it will be subtle
- Give your coat to your sub, never hang it on the back of your chair.
- You will be gently directed to the table, please stand back somewhat as the hostess
  will be well aware of the seating arrangements and will discretely guide you to your
  seating. There will be place cards, at no instance will you pick them up as a glance
  will suffice, await your sub with courtesy to be behind you.
- Your chair will be pulled out for you while you practice an unfamiliar stance so that your sub may place your chair. When correctly done, the Dom's torso is approximately 20 cm from the table's edge. The art is in how you manage to bend at the knees to allow the chair to be placed under you at the appropriate distance, you

- will be sitting at that distance for the duration of the meal, any shuffling is deemed inappropriate.
- Your sub will then place your napkin on your lap; to facilitate, you must sit with your back pressed against the chair. If your sub does it properly, there will be a flourish reminiscent of Liberace. You may only adjust the position of your napkin after it is placed because you may fear it will fall; this is to be done discreetly, adjusting your leg position will cover this. Your napkin will always remain on your lap unless you leave the table.
- If leaving the table, place the napkin in loose folds to your left of your table setting.
   Shield any spoils on the linen with the loose folds so as not to offend any sensibilities; your napkin is never placed on top of the plate. It will be on the back of your chair on your return. Upon your return, the seating ritual is realised.
- Hand towels will be offered, only use them on your hands never your face. You are not on an aeroplane but in esteemed company. Return them to your sub when you are finished; or indicate to your sub to be of service for this task. Side note: Wet towels really sting when flicked, just watch the table settings please!
- Wait until your hostess starts eating or indicates you should do so.
- Food to mouth not mouth to food. Ramrod straight back, meaning your back, neck and torso must never bend except from the hips by no more than 30 degrees.
- Chew and swallow all the food in your mouth before taking more food or taking a drink.
- There are no left handed settings. Convention dictates forks on the left, knives on the right, no ifs no buts, it has been the standard for centuries, and with good reason as it is steeped in history where it prevented bloodshed at the feasting table.
- Cutlery, really simply outside to in. Start with the utensils on the outside and work
  your way inward with each subsequent course. Forks will be on your left, knives and
  spoons on your right. The silverware indicates the courses that will be served.
- The fork is held in the left hand, the knife in the right to cut food and to help carry food to the fork. The fork is held, tines down and the knife used to move food unto the fork or support food so the fork can pick it up. There is no shifting of cutlery.
- Tines of the fork always always point down and never swap hands.
- The order of the wine glasses begins with the one closest to you: Champagne (soup course) White wine (fish/chicken course) Red wine (meat course) arching at a 45 degree angle from your knife veering to the left. The Water goblet, is to the right creating a back to front "tick".
- White wine is normally served in a smaller glass with a longer stem (in this case a goblet). Hold it at the base of the stem. The same applies to all chilled wines.
- Red wine is served in a glass with a round bowl and fairly short stem. Hold it at the base of the bowl. It should be served at room temperature.
- Break bread and rolls with your fingers not with your knife.
- Break off a small piece of bread or roll and butter it. Do not butter the whole portion.
- There will be a butter knife adjacent to the butter dish. Use it to transfer butter to your side plate. Your butter knife will be laying vertically across your side plate. Never use the knife with the butter dish to butter your bread. If there is no knife with the butter dish, transfer the butter with your butter knife.

- You may use a portion of bread on a fork to soak up sauce or gravy. Never hold the bread in your fingers to do this.
- Soup spoon away from you. If you feel the need the bowl is gently tipped away from you, however, this is to be discouraged.
- Always use a knife and fork. However, if there is a fish course, it may require the
  removal of wrappings, and finger bowls may be provided. The bowl will be placed to
  the left of your place setting. Dip your fingers of one hand into the bowl, dry on your
  napkin which remains on your lap then follow with the other hand. There may be a
  flower or a lemon slice in the bowl; leave it be. You may decide to direct your sub to
  be of service with this task.
- Knives and forks are to be placed together to indicate that you have finished your course. Place your knife and fork together in the "twenty-past-four" position as if your plate were the face of the clock with the knife on the outside and the fork on the inside. Alternatively, place the utensils side by side in the middle of your plate, fork tines down, knife to the right, sharp blade turned inward toward the fork.

#### Standards:

- Never chew with your mouth open.
- Never talk with food in your mouth.
- Never put too much food in your mouth.
- Never mash or mix food on your plate.
- Do not blow on hot food or beverage.
- Do not sip from a coffee spoon or teaspoon.
- Never use your fingers to push food onto your spoon or fork.
- Never tuck your napkin into the collar of your shirt.
- Never use a napkin as a handkerchief.
- Do not wipe off cutlery or glassware with your napkin. If dishes aren't clean, discreetly ask your sub for a replacement.
- Do not cut up more than three bites at a time.
- Do not scrape the plate.
- Do not push your plate away or stack your dishes.
- Always indicate to your server if something needs to be passed, verbal or non-verbal commands are acceptable. Never reach across the table, nor will your server. If anything is not directly in front of you, the servers will facilitate.
- If you decide to use the restroom, excuse yourself and leave quietly.
- Do not ask people where they are going if they excuse themselves.
- Elbows should not be on the table until after all courses have been cleared away.
- Hands should never be below table level.
- Never lean on your elbows.
- Keep your posture erect.
- Never rock back in your chair.
- Never apply makeup or comb your hair at the table.
- If you spill anything on the table or yourself, discreetly use your napkin or indicate to your sub for sparkling water. Do not dip your napkin into your water glass.

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- If you spill anything on someone else do not try to mop up the spill, offer them a napkin and let them do it for themselves, this is where their sub can come into play.
- If you belch cover your mouth with your napkin. After it happens, say a guiet "pardon me" to no one in particular, do not make a big deal about it.
- If you get some food stuck between your teeth discreetly cover your mouth whilst using a toothpick

#### For the Submissives

From service and sommeliers, to place settings and posture, there are many rules and standards that are expected to be followed when serving in a formal dining environment.

Though some of these etiquette practices may seem like common sense, such as smiling, eyes demur and being polite, others may be unfamiliar. These fine dining etiquette tips will serve as a basic guideline when providing service to your Dom with the best meal, service and atmosphere possible, to create an ambience.

All service aims to serve your Dom quickly, efficiently and with great care.

#### **Some Basics**

- Table settings are always arranged for right handed people. In a clockwise direction you'll find the following: Wine and water glasses, spoons, knives, charger and dinner plates with the napkin placed on top, dinner forks, bread plate and butter knife. Don't be alarmed if you see up to 4 beverage glasses for your Dom's place setting. Glasses should be arranged in a diagonal pattern to the right of the dinner plate and are comprised of glasses for water, white wine, red wine and a champagne flute for occasions that require a toast.
- It's important to make sure the tabletop is symmetrical to create an aesthetically pleasing backdrop for your Dom to enjoy.
- Always make sure tablecloths are free of wrinkles and stains and seams should be faced down. Allow the same amount of overhang on each side of the table.
- When setting the table, hold glasses by the stem and cutlery from the middle to minimize the appearance of finger prints.
- Serving the Table We will be practicing the open hand service method, which means that a server's arms are never to be crossed in front of a Dom and food is always served from the Dom's right side. Plates should be rotated when being served so the protein of a dish is facing the Dom, as opposed to a vegetable.
- When serving wine, never hold a wine glass by the bowl, always the stem and as close to the base as possible. Wine will stay cooler longer if the heat from your hand isn't pressing against the bowl of the glass. Make sure to use a cloth napkin when pouring wine to wipe the excess drips from the mouth of the bottle.
- Clearing the Table There are some signs to gauge when the Dom's are done with their meals. Napkins will be put back on the table and cutlery is placed in a vertical position on top of your Dom's dinner plate. If your Dom needs to get up from the table to use the restroom, napkins are placed on the chair or to the left of their

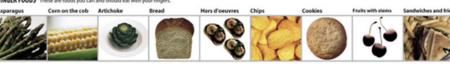
- setting to indicate the meal is not yet finished. Removal of plates should always be conducted from the left of the Dom. Empty glasses and plates should be cleared prior to the arrival of the next course.
- The table will be cleared in unison by the subs, at every course the trigger is when the Host/Hostess puts her cutlery in the clearance position. This not only looks amazing; a sense of pageantry, but also disrupts the conversation at the table the least.

#### Important Tips to Remember:

- Never eat, drink, or chew gum in front of the Dom's, except at their behest.
- Always exhibit proper posture- Do not slouch, cross your arms, or leave your hands in your pockets while on service.
- Press uniforms to eliminate wrinkles, creases and make sure they are free of stains or excess food.
- Do not engage in informal conversations with other Dom's

# Appendix C - Dining Setting





#### RESTING POSITION



#### FINISHED POSITION





# Appendix D - Theory of Submissive Service

With thanks from Mistress Zeneca (ElegantlyKinky on Fetlife)

The basic principle of submissive service can be summed up in one word: **Attentiveness.** 

Your behavior should reflect your attentiveness to the dominant's needs and desires at all times. Your role is to serve those needs and desires. Is your Dominant's coffee cup empty or has the coffee grown cold? Do they need a chair to sit on? It is your job to ensure that the Dominant's comforts are served by making any and all appropriate arrangements to make the Dominant's life easy. Similarly, it is your joyful task to demonstrate, through your attitude and demeanor, that the Dominant's needs come first. By demonstrating this behavior you are conveying respect and genuine sincerity in your service. Your ability to devotedly serve your Dominant is a standard by which others will judge you AND your Dominant. Not only will your attentiveness please your Dominant, but it will impress those you meet. In other words, you will be a submissive who a Dominant is proud to own, collar and one who others will believe is worth collaring.

We rarely get the opportunity to display the respect and attentiveness to our Dominants that High Protocol demands. Our days tend to run overflowing with our vanilla life concerns. The formality of ritual will sometimes get lost in the casual exchanges of everyday life. Slowly the divide between Dominance and submission erodes to shades of subtlety. Protocol snaps the proper behavior back into contrast with providing a structure and basis of respectful interactions. One of the benefits of learning High Protocol is that it establishes a level of respect by which both the Dominant and the submissive use to strengthen their relationship. It is a common question in the BDSM community of what is the standard etiquette and protocol for a submissive. If you are an un-owned submissive, this is a rare opportunity to gain fruitful training and experience. If you are already in a relationship, then this is a great opportunity to flourish and polish your skills to impress your dominant.

By reading this manual, you will know what is expected of you in many situations and how to properly respond to display the greatest amount of respect, gratitude and adoration. Dominants in turn will show you that they appreciate you and your service with an equal amount of praise, politeness and courtesy for your position.

#### Misc Protocols:-

- Unless otherwise directed, submissives should stand 1 pace behind and 1 pace to the right of their Dominant.
- Do more than your fair share
- Be flexible and ready to jump into whatever task is asked of you.
- Use titles abundantly and whenever possible.
- Submissives will open doors for their Dominant and follow behind.
- Always make sure your Dominants serviceware is clean and the rims of their glasses are un-smudged.

Your deportment should be as unobtrusive as possible so as to not distract or annoy any Dominant with your presence. The key word with your walk should be "floating". While you may be rushing around for your Dominant or in service to the House, your movements should not look rushed. Grace and ease is the energy you want to convey. You may move quickly, but do not look rushed. Similarly, when moving from position to position your transitions between should be elegant and flowing, easy and graceful. You are the attraction and your body should be worthy of watching. All movements should look effortless.

To request service a Dominant may ask "Would you do me the honor of.... (Insert service request)?" The submissive may then answer Yes and perform the service or No and indicate their decision with a statement spoken politely such as, "With respect, (Sir or Ma'am), I do not know you (or insert other reason) and therefore must decline your request." It is wise for Dominants to remember that service by a sub is a gift that cannot be demanded.

It is requested that Dominants turn a blind eye to protocol errors if the intention by the submissive is sincere. The Dominant may however point out continuous protocol mishaps by politely reminding them of the correct procedure by stating, "It is my responsibility to guide you into the correct protocol. I'd like a moment to do so now." Once the submissive has agreed, the Dominant then politely corrects the behavior. The submissive must not take whatever the Dominant says personally or to heart. The submissive must turn a deaf ear to any phrasing that the Dominant may use which may seem critical. The Dominant is interested in helping, not to intentionally hurt. This conversation must be done discreetly as to not offend or distract other party-goers.

#### A Note on Etiquette

High Protocol events are all about displaying the absolute best behavior and respectfulness to Dominants and submissives alike. Everything you say or do is a reflection on you and yours. As a Dominant, it is your responsibility to lead by example. Submissives want to serve a Dominant they can respect. A bit of formality in your voice and demeanor displays that you can show proper respect to those which serve you. Good manners beget good manners. Appreciate your submissive by always treating them with the respect that you want to be treated with. "Please" and "Thank you" go a long way.

# Appendix E - Some considerations for Protocol

Protocol and etiquette guidance has been drawn from

http://michaelsamadhi.com/high-protocol-ds-dinner

#### Miscellaneous Protocols - While very obvious, please note the following:

- 1. Be clean and appropriately dressed before your timely arrival at the event.
- 2. If you note something amiss, please either discreetly address the matter yourself or bring it to the timely attention of the House Mistress or a house slave who will deal with the matter.
- 3. Please assist if there is a need and it is appropriate, you are unlikely to be asked.
- 4. Always be polite and use titles where appropriate. If you are unsure of a Guests name or status, please use the title Madam, Ma'am, or Sir. Those attending the event in support of a Master/Mistress and wearing a collar will be addressed as "Slave", others as "Submissive".
- 5. Attendants, submissives and slaves should avoid speaking unless spoken to. You are there to facilitate your and other Master/Mistresses enjoyment of the evening and not to be heard or to interrupt without good reason.
- 6. Submissives will display courtesy for their Master/Mistress and to all others. Should you find a guest obstructing you, either wait until able to pass or excuse yourself and ask to pass when conversation or circumstance allows.
- 7. All Slaves and Submissives are expected to remain standing prior to all Master/Mistresses being seated for the dinner. Slaves and submissives are expected to guide your Dom/Domme onto her chair and to move it closer to the table for his/her comfort and convenience. Once all Masters/Mistresses are seated, slaves and submissives may take their position whether adjacent to their Master/Mistress, on a cushion beside them, standing where appropriate, or other arrangement as per your individual dynamic. Please ensure that others can reach the table with food and drinks if necessary.
- 8. "Please and Thank You" is an entirely appropriate way to start and end almost any sentence. Shouting is unwelcome except in emergencies, swearing and profanity is to be avoided.

Appendix F - Serving

In an effort to build an environment of grace and elegance, each submissive is responsible for identifying and employing ways of incorporating grace into their presentation style. The following are guidelines to assist you with this.

- 1. Please refrain from pointing. All gestures where a pointing finger might be appropriate are instead gestured with the entire hand. These gestures are more polite then using the pointer finger. Your hand position may be an open hand with 4 fingers together and the thumb tucked in – almost like a karate chop. Or your hand may have one or more fingers touching your thumb forming a squashed O - similar to the position your hand would be inside a hand puppet.
- 2. When you direct a Dominant somewhere, lead them to it. Think of the waiter or waitress that leads you to your table for your meal; it's the same principle. If your Dominant asks where the restrooms are, say "Follow me please." Lead him/her to the appropriate restroom, and wait outside discreetly for their exit so they may then be led back to the party. It is your responsibility to find out from the House Mistresses delegate where the facilities are.
- 3. Try to think one step ahead of your Dominant. Anticipate their needs and watch for signs that they need something. If it's a refill of their drink or a new napkin, make motions to provide it before they ask for it. If you are unsure if the Dominant would like a refill, then politely ask, "(insert Dominant's preferred name here), would you like me to bring you ABC?" Jump into action if the Dominant makes a request.
- 4. Service with a SMILE. Remember, this night is about your Dominant. It may be difficult to remember protocols or exactly how to do something, but your attitude and energy must be positive at all times. Be attentive and your Dominant will appreciate the effort.
- 5. Never reach across any guest at any table. Reaching across the table to set something down isn't polite and can be downright rude. Instead, move yourself to the best location to reach that glass or plate without disturbing your Dominant. Please remember it is often best to serve from the right and clear from the left.

# Appendix G - Life's Hierarchy Rules

#### Core values

- Discretion what happens in the Club stays in the Club.
- Respect all members are respected equally regardless of status.
- Honesty all communication is in good faith and without deception.
- Honour recognising that the D/s lifestyle is an honourable as any other.
- Consent Explicit consent is a minimum requirement of all interaction.

#### Participants...

- Undertake to not hold Life's Hierarchy, the Club, its personnel and servants responsible for any damages, injury, loss, or death resulting in my membership or participation in events.
- Agree to obey all rules and protocols and behave in accordance with the values of Life's Hierarchy when attending or participating in any Life's Hierarchy event
- To report, as soon as is practicable any violation to the values and code of conduct of Life's Hierarchy and any accidents or incidences at Life's Hierarchy events attended.
- Will follow the instruction of the Moderator of Life's Hierarchy, or his or her representative, in the event of an incident.
- Avoid any physical contact with any member or members without the express permission of that member or members.

#### House Rules

- Dress codes may apply for some events and those codes will be followed by all attended.
- Alcohol consumption must be consumed responsibly, and drug use will not be allowed. Intoxicated members may be ejected from or denied entry to events.
- Smoking will not be permitted inside at events staged by Life's Hierarchy.
- Members will ensure that all social and sexual activities they are involved in are consensual and that pre-play negotiations have occurred to the extent required by relevant members.
- No financial transactions will occur in relation to attending events and participants in Life's Hierarchy events, other than the cost of entry charged by Life's Hierarchy.
- The safe word 'RED' for STOP and 'ORANGE' for CHECK-IN will apply for at events and will be respected by all members. Failure to cease activities after RED is uttered will result in sanctions.
- Members will be personally responsible for any goods, equipment, items of clothing or toys they bring to events. Life's Hierarchy accepts no responsibility for the property of others.
- The physical venue in which events are stages will be respected and treated with care. Members may be held responsible for the damage they cause or contribute to.
- Participating members will at all times abide by the laws and statutes of the jurisdictions in which
  events and activities take place.