



# Bar Star

BY JOEY GUERRA  
PHOTO BY GARY FOUNTAIN

## JAMES MIKE

**Find him behind the bar at:**  
Third Coast, 6550 Bertner, sixth floor  
**Hours:** 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Mondays-Fridays,  
5-10 p.m. Saturdays

THE HOUSTON BAR SCENE IS FULL OF PERSONALITIES — BAR STARS, IF YOU WILL. EACH WEEK IN PREVIEW, WE'LL FEATURE ONE OF THESE MIXOLOGISTS TO LET YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM, ASIDE FROM HOW GOOD THEY ARE AT MAKING YOU FEEL GOOD.

**Length of time working at current place?**

Twelve years  
(It was previously Trevisio.)

**Nickname?**

Maker Mike

**Most famous person you've ever served a drink to?**

President George H. Bush

**Most common customer complaint?**

That more people should know about us. A lot of people are surprised to find a place like this in the middle of the Medical Center.

**What's the sloppiest, drunkest thing you've seen from behind the bar?**

Sometimes, when they are full and have

drinks, people fall asleep for a minute.

**What's the most outrageous request you've ever gotten?**

English is not my first language, and sometimes this leads to misunderstanding. When I first started tending bar, a woman asked me for "Sex on the beach." I asked her to repeat herself because I couldn't believe what she was saying. I told my manager and learned it was a drink.

**Best tip you've ever received?**

\$200

**Where do you like to go have a drink when you're not at work?**

I like to go to Prego.

**What's your specialty drink, and how do you make it?**

The Third Coast is my specialty drink. It has muddled blackberries, Western Son Blueberry Vodka, house-made lemonade and blueberries.

**What's something your customers may not know about you?**

I am from the Dinka tribe of South Sudan. When I was 7 years old, my village was attacked by northern government troops and burned down. Every adult was killed. It was the last day I saw my parents. I ran with thousands of other young children on a very hard journey. It took me a long time to realize that I have gained a lot from living with so many people in refugee camps. It was a part of learning while going through bad things. I eventually came to Houston in 2003 through YMCA International Services. The lost boy found a new home.



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**LOCATION:**  
8880 Bellaire Blvd. Ste. C  
Houston, TX 77036

**HOURS:**

Monday - Friday 4 p.m. - 12 a.m.	Saturday 12 p.m. - 12 a.m.	Sunday 12 - 10 p.m.
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**832-742-9875**

Know a bartender who deserves the spotlight? Email [joey.guerra@chron.com](mailto:joey.guerra@chron.com), [twitter.com/joeyguerra](https://twitter.com/joeyguerra)