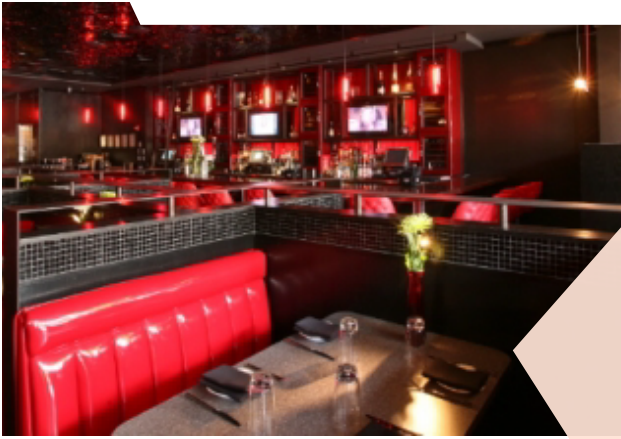


Rita's Date Guide for Guys: *POLICY RESTAURANT, WASHINGTON, DC*

by Rita Colbert, ritacolbert.com



...a swanky U Street joint with creative tapas and a cool lounge...

*Provocatively named "The Love Dining Room", the bar and restaurant of Policy is definitely one of the most unique spots to go to in DC. With glowing red vinyl booths against sharp black walls and stamped tin ceiling, it's styled after a diner—but much swankier. It looks and feels like a film set from *Oceans Eleven*. I felt sexier simply by walking into the restaurant!*

Since reading all its rave reviews, I've been dying to try out Policy Restaurant for a while. So I got my friend "Buck" to take me there for my very first *date field trip*. I loved Policy because everything about it—the food, the drinks, the setting—is sexy.

WHAT TO WEAR

Almost any style of dress works at Policy. The cozy, intimate booths would make you feel comfortable in nice jeans but, since I went to the date straight from work, I was dressed up and so Buck wore a suit for me. We felt like we fit right into the stylish ambience (and like we might be able to take part in some kind of sexy heist after). If your date hasn't been to Policy before, when you mention the location, give her a heads up on how you plan to dress. Girls take their outfits very seriously.

WHAT TO ORDER

The food is delicious and elegantly designed. Policy serves it tapas style, so the plates are small and made to share. Our friendly waiter, Vinny, recommended ordering six plates (2-3 per person), but I suggest starting with four and waiting until later to order more (or saving room for one of their fabulous desserts or after dinner drinks).



Where is It?

1904 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009
(202) 387-7654

www.policyDC.com - the website is very informative

Hours: Daily, 5:30 pm – 2:30 am
(food served until 12:30 am)

How to Get There

Easily Metro accessible: U Street/Cordozo stop on the Yellow and Green Lines. *Personally, I suggest driving your date as it provides a more intimate pre-date connection and can set the mood for a romantic evening.*

Take advantage of Policy's Valet Parking (\$15), as street parking is limited.

Pocket Guide to a Date at Policy

Style: Swanky Casual

Expect to spend: \$40 - \$120

Best tables: 15, 32 or window

Best evening: Wednesday (1/2 price wine bottles and karaoke)

Order: Salt Roasted Local Beets and Blackened Diver Scallops— or let Policy choose for you

Drinks: Hibiscus Cocktail (for her) and Black Manhattan (for him)

After dinner: Liberty Lounge located upstairs

Where to make your move: Sit beside her in a partially enclosed booth in the Lounge. If she doesn't slide away, you know you've got a shot!

We were especially impressed by the Salt Roasted Local Beets (with pistachio pesto and gorgonzola mousse) and the Blackened Diver Scallops! If you are like Buck, and choosing six dishes in an unknown restaurant, in front of a new date, makes you nervous (or seems potentially costly), be sure to read Secret Tip #1 for the great insider tips that the General Manager, Jordan, provided!



WHAT TO DRINK

If you and your date are interested in smooth and carefully crafted cocktails, suggest that she try a Hibiscus Cocktail. It's sweet and lovely and actually has a hibiscus flower in the bottom that you can eat. Men, if you want to feel like Dean Martin, then be sure to get a Black Manhattan, Policy's version of the classic man's cocktail with top shelf scotch.

WHERE TO SIT

When you make your reservation, request one of the following tables. The booth all the way in the back (Table 32) is very moodily lit and intimate--you'll feel like a couple of spies. The small booth (Table 15) all the way in the front, near the bar, is more charming and allows for better people-watching (and honestly has more flattering light). On warm nights, you can really impress your date by reserving the front window table. You'll feel like VIPs!

WHERE TO GO AFTER

Right upstairs! Policy is designed as an all-night destination. Their Liberty Lounge is a roomy little club decorated by graffiti artist, Andrew Funk. It has DJ's on the weekends and Karaoke on Wednesday nights if you're feeling Rat Packy. The room has several partially enclosed booth areas that make you feel like you've got a private cabana right in the club.

My night at Policy was extremely fun and I don't think you can go wrong with this date, boys! I'd love to hear about all of yours, so drop me a line and tell me your stories!

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Secret Tip #1

Call ahead and tell Policy you're bringing a date that evening. Tell them how much you'd like to spend and ask them to design a meal for the two of you to fit your budget. (Be sure to have asked your date about any dietary restrictions.) She will be impressed by your decisiveness and planning and the two of you can sit back and get to know each other while being pleasantly surprised as the courses come to your table one by one. (Be sure to tell Policy you heard about them from Rita's Date Blog, but not in front of your date!)

In fact, calling ahead and letting a restaurant know who you are, and that you hoping to impress a date at their place, is always a good way to find out about unique opportunities and you often get a warm welcome at the door and other special treatment!



Policy's cool Liberty Lounge is right upstairs!

Secret Tip #2

Make your date at Policy for a Wednesday night and get a bottle of wine for half price. Your date doesn't have to know! Our waiter recommended the Willamette Valley 2010 Pinot Noir, Oregon, and I was very impressed!