



## THE STEW

A TASTE OF CHICAGO'S FOOD, WINE, AND DINING SCENE  
BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S GOOD EATING AND DINING STAFFS

May 05, 2010

### 'Hottest Cocktail on Earth' at Mercadito today, if you dare

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Posted by *Phil Vettel*

One way to keep from overdoing it at today's Cinco de Mayo revels is to order the "Vato Loco" cocktail at Mercadito (108 W. Kinzie St., 312-329-9555).

Odds are good you'll be one and done. Maybe one and *really* done.

Developed in concert with the Tippling Bros., the \$12 Vato Loco is billed as the "Hottest Cocktail on Earth," so insanely hot that Mercadito requires customers to sign a liability waiver.

The drink is made with tequila, smoky chile pepper syrup and puree of pineapple and something called the "seven deadly chile peppers." The glass is rimmed with ground chiles and the whole is garnished with a hollowed out jalapeno filled with sweetened milk and high proof rum and flamed.

The waiver, a tongue-in-cheek document, includes wording such as, "I am aware that participating in this activity can result in serious tearing of the eyes, a severe burning sensation on the tongue ... and possible fire shooting out of the mouth."

It's available at lunch and dinner, so one has the option of ruining one's evening or the entire day.

Consider it a call to arms, or possibly tonsils, for macho dipwads everywhere.

Posted at 11:19:56 AM in Beverages, Phil Vettel, Restaurants



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#### Comments

Anyone that would spend \$12 for a drink is stupid!

Posted by: Ben | May 05, 2010 at 12:40 PM

its not that hot, i've had hotter drinks.

Posted by: joe | May 05, 2010 at 12:51 PM

Apparently Ben, you have never been anywhere but hole-in-the-wall dives to enjoy a cocktail. \$8-\$12 for a drink in the city is the norm. Welcome to the real world...

Now if they put ghost peppers in the drink, then we're talking!

Posted by: KJC25 | May 05, 2010 at 01:12 PM

Given that Rick Bayliss in the Yucatan is the one pushing habanero chilis, I'm surprised that this cocktail wasn't originated at one of the three fine dining establishments that he plugs on channels 7.2 and 11.3.

Also, you do not indicate whether the tequila quenches the effect of the peppers (like what Pepsi Max Ceasefire supposedly does with very hot Doritos). Or, does one have to then buy tres Dos Equis to wash down the cocktail?

Posted by: jack (the real one) | May 05, 2010 at 01:24 PM

It looks cool, but I'd rather stick a hot poker down my throat.

Posted by: Bobbi | May 05, 2010 at 02:14 PM

You are right on that one, Joe..bring on the ghost peppers! And Ben..i guess you dont get out much..that's normal price for a cocktail downtown.

Posted by: mun123 | May 05, 2010 at 03:01 PM

Can you imagine what it's like to be Ben's date? A fancy night means full-priced PBRs.

Posted by: KSlimers | May 05, 2010 at 03:08 PM

Wow.. :p

Posted by: mun123 | May 05, 2010 at 03:28 PM

To:KJC25 ..... again, anyone who would spend 12 bones on a cocktail is a loser!

Besides, Ben and I live on love, whilst we drink out cheap PBR's !!

Posted by: Lee | May 05, 2010 at 03:51 PM

Bobbi sez: "...but I'd rather stick a hot poker down my throat."

In that case, Bobbi, stop on by, I have what you are looking for!!!! :P

Posted by: Hugh G. Johnson | May 05, 2010 at 06:41 PM

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