

# NWI's Bartender of the Month for March 2009 is "Steveo" from Martinis in Valparaiso, Indiana

We introduce to you April's Bartender of the Month, Steven "Steveo" Ippolito. Steveo hails from Valparaiso and admits he makes the best Bloody Mary at Martinis located in his own hometown. Btw, he'll be 23 years old this month too.

Besides the obvious passion Steveo has for what he does, he attends college, majoring in Tourism and Hospitality. Becoming a professional in the industry is the direction Steveo intends on going. "I tried other areas of study, but I keep coming back to what I love doing best and that's what I do here at Martinis."

Working the high-end resort market and owning his own place one day is his goal and this requires more than just a plan. "I'm lucky in that I've seen this place literally transform. Martinis was formerly Goodfellas, and when a change like that takes place you get to experience the personality of the preceding bar transform and develop its own personality now known as Martinis, Valparaiso's best kept secret."

When asked what quality he possessed and regarded most valuable to his employers and Martinis. Steveo replied, "Ask anyone, I have a passion for anything I do. Hard work, dedication and above all the love and support felt among my coworkers and employers. Listen, we have a really eclectic group of people at Martinis, from the President of the Chamber of Commerce to bikers. And you know...it's something when even bikers can't hate me!"

Steveo's final words: "I'm blessed to do what I do best and I don't take that for granted."