Over the years while traveling we have found that it pays to make an effort to speak a bit of the local lingo. Any effort even a bad one is usually rewarded with a smile and an improvement in service and cooperation by those you bestow it upon.

Vilamoura Is no exception. The following are some terms you can and should use while in Vilamoura to obtain common things like cofee or bear while at the same time incorporating some Portuguese into your communications.

Although I am an American sitisen, I was born in Portugal and speak Portugese fluently so this information is authentic.

Cofee. If you look up coffee in an English/Portuguese translator it will most likely retur n“Café”. And that is correct if you are referring to normal black coffe but not to what the Portuguese mean when yhey say “Café”.

When a Portugese referes to Café he is speaking of what we call expresso coffee. Black coffee very strong served in a small cup.

It is actually very good and it is usually had with copious amounts of sugar, and traditional Portugueses usually accompany it with a bit of Aguardent or sometimes called bagaso (more on that latter).

So you could simply ask for Café right? No Not really. See if you say Café the waiter or waitress realizing that you are not Portugese will then try to ascertain just what kind of coffee do you mean. You could do much better. Her’s how.

Expresso in Portugal is called “Bica” so if you want expresso simply say “uma bica”, (one expresso). Now here’s your oprtunaty to really improve your communications and get that smile.

When you order a bica you may be surprised to get a little cup only hjalph full of expresso. You may thing you have been jiped. Not so. That is how bica is traditionally served. However many Portugese also rebel against the 1/2 cup so there is a way to ask for a better pooring. Bica, Shavena Sheia. That means expresso fill the cup.

If on the other hand you simply want a run of the mill cup of coffee than just say: Café normal. That is said normAl. The A sounds like whenaA detective in a novel says; “Haha now I have you”. That haha sound is how you say the A in normAL.

What if you want a capushino: That is called Galao.

What about just plain coffee with milk: Café con leite.

Normal coffee: Café normal.

Expresso: Bica

Expresso full cup: Bica shaven sheia.

Now that we know how to say coffee in Poretugese lets try something for during the meal shall we.

Bear: