

Restaurant patrons outside Singapore do ask for tap water - and get it

I READ Sunday's excellent report, 'All stirred up over drinking water in restaurants', on serving water in various restaurants and the ongoing debate. I have written before about this subject.

In a nutshell, the only reason not to serve water in restaurants is to make a profit from sales of bottled water.

I had the same experience as Ms Veron Ang at a Thai restaurant in Clarke Quay where I hosted eight people to lunch. I had to take a pill for a cold symptom and asked for a glass of water. No dice. I was told, 'We don't practise serving water by the glass', meaning I had to buy a bottle of water. We left without ordering and went to a more 'realistic' restaurant.

The woman from La Forketta restaurant is wrong when she says that 'nobody outside Singapore asks for tap water'. Perhaps she has not been outside Singapore. Everywhere I travel in the region and in North America, Australia and New Zealand, the first thing the wait staff does is put either a glass or carafe of water on the table. Free. No questions.

Perhaps the only solution if one cannot get a glass of water and likes the restaurant is either to take your own bottle of water and ask if this is okay before ordering, or to take an empty plastic glass and take tap water from the washroom. Singapore water is pure and safe.

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