

Spanish Eateries Charge More for Sun

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. overcharge (verb) /ˌəʊ.vəˈtʃɑːdʒ/ - To charge someone more than the correct or fair price.
Example: The restaurant was found to overcharge its customers for drinks.
2. indicate (verb) /ˈɪn.dɪ.keɪt/ - To show, point out, or make something clear.
Example: The signpost indicates the direction to the nearest town.
3. patron (noun) /ˈpeɪ.trən/ - A person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or cause.
Example: The museum received a generous donation from a long-time patron.
4. regulation (noun) /ˌrɛɡ.jʊˈleɪ.ʃən/ - A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.
Example: The new safety regulations require all workers to wear helmets.
5. transparency (noun) /trænˈspær.ən.si/ - The quality of being clear, open, and honest, with nothing hidden.
Example: The company's transparency in its financial dealings earned the trust of its investors.
6. hydrated (adjective) /haɪˈdreɪ.tɪd/ - Having absorbed enough water or other liquid.
Example: It's important to stay hydrated during hot weather to prevent heat exhaustion.



When we go on vacation, we often find ourselves in "tourist traps." These are places that attract many visitors and charge high prices, sometimes for low-quality products. Tourists often don't realize they're being **overcharged**. However, officials in Andalusia, Spain, are trying to make things easier for tourists. Andalusia is home to popular cities like Granada, Málaga, and Seville,

as well as the beaches and bars of Marbella. But while things may be more convenient for tourists, they won't necessarily be cheaper.

The regional government in Andalusia has allowed restaurants and bars to charge different prices based on where customers sit—inside or outside. So, if you want to enjoy the sun on a hot day, you might pay more. However, establishments must clearly **indicate** any price differences between seating areas. This rule aims to balance comfort and cost for **patrons**.

Restaurants and bars face additional **regulations**. They must accept both card and cash payments. Menus should be available in printed form, not just through QR codes, **ensuring** accessibility for those without smartphones. By doing so, businesses cater to a wider range of customers.

To protect consumers, service charges cannot be included in the bill. All menu prices must include tax. This **transparency** ensures that diners know exactly what they're paying for. It's a step toward fairer pricing practices.

Finally, establishments must offer free tap water—not just bottled water for purchase. So, even if you pay extra for a sunny table, at least you can stay **hydrated** without additional cost.

DISCUSSION

1. Imagine you're at a beachside restaurant in Andalusia. Would you willingly pay extra to sit in the sun, or would you prefer a shaded spot? Why?
2. Have you ever encountered a menu with hidden charges or unclear pricing? How did it make you feel, and what did you do?
3. If you were designing a menu for a restaurant, how would you balance modern convenience (QR codes) with accessibility (printed menus)?
4. Share a personal experience of being caught in a tourist trap. What did you learn from that situation?
5. Besides water, what other refreshing drinks would you offer for free in a restaurant to keep customers hydrated?
6. Do you think it's fair for restaurants to charge differently based on where customers sit? Why or why not?
7. If you were planning a trip to Andalusia, what precautions would you take to avoid overspending while enjoying your vacation?