

## DINERS URGED TO SHUN BOTTLED WATER

# Eau yes! It's a carafe-olution

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DRINKING tap water in restaurants just got a whole lot more stylish with the launch today of a carafe specially designed to serve London water.

It is hoped the "Tap Top" vessels will encourage diners to shun bottled mineral water, which has a carbon footprint 300 times larger than tap water.

TV chef Aldo Zilli, who took possession of the first carafes today, said: "It is important to enthuse restaurateurs and diners about the great tap water that we have in this city and to realise there is no

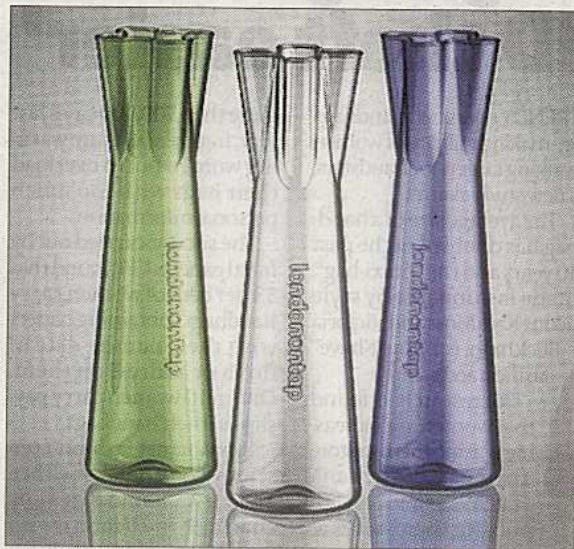
stigma involved in choosing it over bottled water.

"I am looking forward to serving it to customers at my restaurants. Environmental issues are close to my heart and I was shocked to hear about the wasteful nature of the bottled water industry."

Thames Water launched a competition to find the best carafe last year, with Neil Barron coming up with the four-spout design to claim first place.

Chief executive David Owens said hundreds of London venues have expressed interest in ordering carafes.

Each carafe is produced in London and costs £10, excluding VAT and delivery.



**LAUNCH** | 'Tap Top' vessels are produced in London

## Carafe will help our campaign to see bottled water sales dry up

**Mark Prigg**  
Science Correspondent

IT COMES in blue and green glass, meets impeccable eco-standards and was created by a leading London designer.

But will the "tap water" carafe be enough to knock Pellegrino and Highland Spring off restaurant tables?

The £10 design goes on sale today and Thames Water, backed by Mayor Boris Johnson, wants every restaurant in the capital to offer tap water automatically using the carafe, created by Islington industrial designer Neil Barron.

At least 1,000 restaurants are receiving a carafe and Thames Water is in discussions with the Bank of England and the BBC to place an order.

It will build on the success of the Standard's Water on Tap campaign, which persuaded thousands of restaurants and bars to offer free tap water.

A recent study by WaterAid found that tap water is now the preferred choice for 63 per cent of people when they dine out. Chef Aldo Zilli, whose Soho



restaurant will be the first to use the carafe, said: "It is important to enthuse restaurateurs and diners about the great tap water that we have."

The design, Tip Top, was the winning entry in a contest held last year. Carafes are also being sent to the Queen and the Prime Minister.

Mr Johnson said: "Tap water reduces waste and helps cut our emissions."

£1 of each sale will be donated to the charity WaterAid.

**Enthused:** chef Aldo Zilli is using the tap water carafe in his Soho restaurant