



INSIDE

COOKING: A pasta shortcut, 2G

TEXAS COLLECTION: Black-eyed pea salad (left) is a potluck fave. 5G

DRINK: Amazing Masi, 7G

RECIPE COUNT THIS WEEK: 17

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COVER STORY

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Plate peeves

Fish is not vegetarian fare, and bottled water shouldn't be poured over ice

STEVE KEMBLE: Dallas events planner, 48, is a reality-television personality who calls himself "America's sassiest lifestyle guru." He estimates that he spends "at least 85 percent of my time on the road doing television work or fabulous parties all over the world. As a result of this, I dine out a minimum of four nights a week."

"I will go to all the local hot spots because I need to know them for my work (my clients always want to personally go, too, or host an event at the hottest restaurant in town). But I also seek out the local hole-in-the-wall restaurant for my personal enjoyment."

HIS PEEVES: "I get disgusted when I order an expensive glass of wine or fabulous cocktail and it comes in a dirty glass. I love a good dirty martini, but I want it dirty in the way they make it, not served in a dirty glass."

"Wine stewards who recommend bottles of wine that are \$70 or more. It is amazing how those expensive bottles of wines are always their 'favorites.'"

"I hate the phrase, 'Are you done with that yet?'"

"The waitperson refills my coffee without asking ... right when I have just gotten the cream and sugar mixed to delicious perfection in the cup, and they ruin it by topping it off!"

"It seems that every restaurant is going to extensive, expensive a la carte menu items. When I order a burger, I think fries should come with it."

"When I make a reservation for a given time and show up on time, I hate to be told that it will be 20 to 30 minutes until they can seat me, and then send me to the bar so I can buy expensive cocktails!"

"Personally, I feel that if a restaurant cannot honor an agreed-upon reservation time, it should offer a complimentary cocktail or other beverage to the entire party."

"What is the point of ordering bottled water if they are going to pour it over ice made from tap

water? The bottled water should be served cold enough that it does not need to be poured over ice."

"The waitperson comes by to ask how everything is, right when I have my mouth full of food. I think the waitperson needs to look before approaching the table. I feel the same way about a waitperson interrupting a group of diners obviously engaged in deep conversation. (Especially when you are right at the juiciest part of the story, and you have to pause because the waitperson has interrupted you!)"