

# In Dubai, 'Gourmet Water' Injected with Minerals

暑さの厳しいドバイでは、日常的に水を飲むことが欠かせません。そんな環境の中で、水を「体調や気分に合わせて選ぶ」という考え方が広がりつつあります。飲み物を通して健康や快適さを考える姿勢は、私たちの暮らしにも通じる部分がありそうです。あなたは水を選ぶとき、何を基準にしていますか？



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

New kinds of drinks like smoothies, lattes, beers, and cocktails have become popular in recent years. Now a place in Dubai is serving what it claims to be “gourmet water.”

Thirty different kinds of it.

The Aqua Water Bar by Luqel gets its water the traditional way – from the pipe that runs water to your house. The government of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates says water from the pipe, called tap water, is safe to drink and meets international standards. But people in the Middle Eastern city still prefer bottled water.

The water at Aqua Water Bar is said to be different. The bar says it injects a very small amount of minerals, called micro-dosing, into the water. The system is designed by the German water filtration company Luqel. And its water is compared to costly water like Alpine or Arctic-sourced.

Roia Jabari is a director at Aqua Water. She said experts have designed its water to fit your “needs and mood.” And she added, “We can give you the perfectly mineralized recipe.”

One drink, “Runners Heaven,” is high in sodium and potassium to help runners after being in the desert heat. Another, “Vegan’s Choice,” offers minerals that could be **lacking** when not eating meat. Buyers can fill up their bottles with any of the mineral combinations for around 50 cents per 500 milliliters or pay more for a nonalcoholic mixed drink.

It is not an entirely new idea.

A water bar serving what it said was heavily filtered New York City tap water opened in the city’s East Village area in 2012. It received heavy criticism. Another briefly opened in Washington, DC in 2019. It also did not get the best reviews. Neither appears to have stayed open for very long.

But Dubai, a modern city built on desert sands, could be such a place for the product.

Alcohol is **available** in bars in the UAE, but the Muslim country’s population does not drink alcohol. As a center of international business, it brings in **wealthy**, health-centered people who support the wellness industry.

Although Aqua Water is often visited by businessmen who work in the surrounding Dubai Media City, Jabari says that the bar is not just for wealthy buyers. She says the water, which sells for 54 cents per 500 milliliters, is not too costly.

To help the environment, buyers can either fill their own bottles or buy a reusable one starting at around \$2.50.

Early reviews appear to be good, with the bar having 4.6 stars on Google reviews based on around 12 reviews. “(The water) was actually different,” said Bilal Rizvi, who stopped in to try it out recently.

Jabari was born in San Diego, California, and is a designer who has lived in the UAE for 24 years. She designed the bar around ideas based on water. Additionally, the bar also serves Persian food as a way to honor her ancestry.

Jabari hopes to expand the business. She sees room for growth in neighboring countries. She said, “Saudi Arabia is a huge market for us. I believe that Abu Dhabi is our next step.”

Nick El Hajj reported this story for The Associated Press. Gregory Stachel adapted it for VOA Learning English.

## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **prefer (v.)** to like one thing more than another

I prefer warm spring days to the hot and wet days of summer.

2. **inject (v.)** to put a chemical or material into a liquid

The city injects chlorine into the water to kill dangerous bacteria.

3. **lack (v.)** not to have enough of something

People who lack iron in their diet get tired very easily.

4. **available (adj.)** existing or open for people to use

A computer lab, Wi-Fi, and study spaces are all available at the university library.

5. **wealthy (adj.)** having a lot of money or property

Andrew Carnegie was a wealthy businessman who gave most of his money to help people.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is the Aqua Water Bar? Where is it located? What kinds of products does it sell?
2. What kinds of customers does Aqua Water Bar usually get?
3. Who designed Aqua Water Bar? What does she hope to do in the future?
4. What do you prefer to drink on a cold winter's day? What about a hot summer's day?
5. Where does your drinking water come from? What do you think of its quality and flavor?