

RASA Query on Corkage

Question :- Is there a law that prohibits a restaurant from allowing us to bring our own wine? Last night at a restaurant, the waitress said their license does not allow us to drink our own wine; we were prepared to pay corkage, our wine was not in their list, but NO. This has never happened to us before.

Response :- You are correct. The practical situation however is that a business has the discretion to run the business as they want and they can decide whether or not to allow you to bring your own wine (or any other liquor).

Some restaurants discretely allow patrons to do this as people who bring their own wine usually know what they are drinking and bring expensive wines. They usually spend money on food and are happy to pay corkage.

I recently gave an opinion on this question to the BJ's group who have posters encouraging own wine and corkage especially in their stores where there is no liquor licence.