

## **In Great Britain / the United Kingdom / the UK, the government encourages customers to go back to / return to / re-patron restaurants**

By: Eric Albert

Since the beginning of August, William James and Jo Foulsham have been trying / exploring / scouring the restaurants in South London near their home. "We tried a Japanese restaurant, a vegan restaurant, and a pub we had never been to before (etc.). At this price, we can go to places that wouldn't usually be affordable / reasonably priced / we can go to places that would usually be too expensive."

The two Brits / Britons, who are finishing up tapas at a restaurant in Brixton / a Brixton restaurant, are taking full advantage of one of the easiest / simplest and most popular stimulus packages from Boris Johnson's government. During the month of August / Throughout August, from Monday to Wednesday only, the state will cover / are covering 50% of the restaurant bill / ticket / check, up to a limit of 10 pounds (11 euros) per person, excluding alcohol / alcoholic beverages. For example, this is enough to get a discount of / be discounted 40 pounds (45 euros) for a family of four, on the condition that they dine-in / eat at the restaurant / eat on the spot (take-away / carry-out orders are not included / excluded / not eligible).

The success has been instantaneous / immediate / quick: 35 million meals have been included in the program(me) / have benefitted from the program(me) in the first two weeks of August. On average, the reduction / discount is just over 5 pounds per person, a price / check / bill for the state that amounts to 180 million pounds (200 million euros) so far. The cost is relatively minor compared to the 160 billion pounds (180 billion euros) applied / furnished / given out by the British government since the start of the pandemic.

"When the program(me) was announced in early July, I was sceptical / skeptical. It was a kind of a / a bit of a gimmick," says Nina Skero, the director / head of the Centre / Center for Economic and Business Research, an economic research company. My scepticism / skepticism disappeared when, on August 3rd (the first day of the program(me)), I saw a line of around / about a dozen people waiting for lunch outside a restaurant where I hadn't seen anyone / I had seen no one in weeks."