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Cost Check:
Karen Hatfield at
L.A.'s Odys + Penelope,
which has dropped
tips but added
an 18 percent
service charge.

FRINGO HAY CHIU/LA8U

Tabled Tips

Eateries ax gratuities, hike prices to cover rising wages

By **DAINA BETH SOLOMON** Staff Reporter

THE check arrives after a meal of chicken tikka masala, a samosa and an iced tea at Cowboys and Turbans in Silver Lake. And at \$28, it looks a little inflated.

But that's because the tip is included – tucked into that bigger bill.

Cowboys and Turbans is just one of several local restaurants that's done away with traditional tipping and raised prices to make up the difference. The concept is beginning to catch

on across Los Angeles as restaurants debate how to stay afloat while boosting salaries in advance of a city minimum wage that's set to climb to \$15 an hour by 2020.

But servers – especially those at high-end places with generous clientele – might have to deal with a drop in income. In addition, some restaurant owners say doing what they believe is fair might end up threatening the economic viability of their establishments.

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