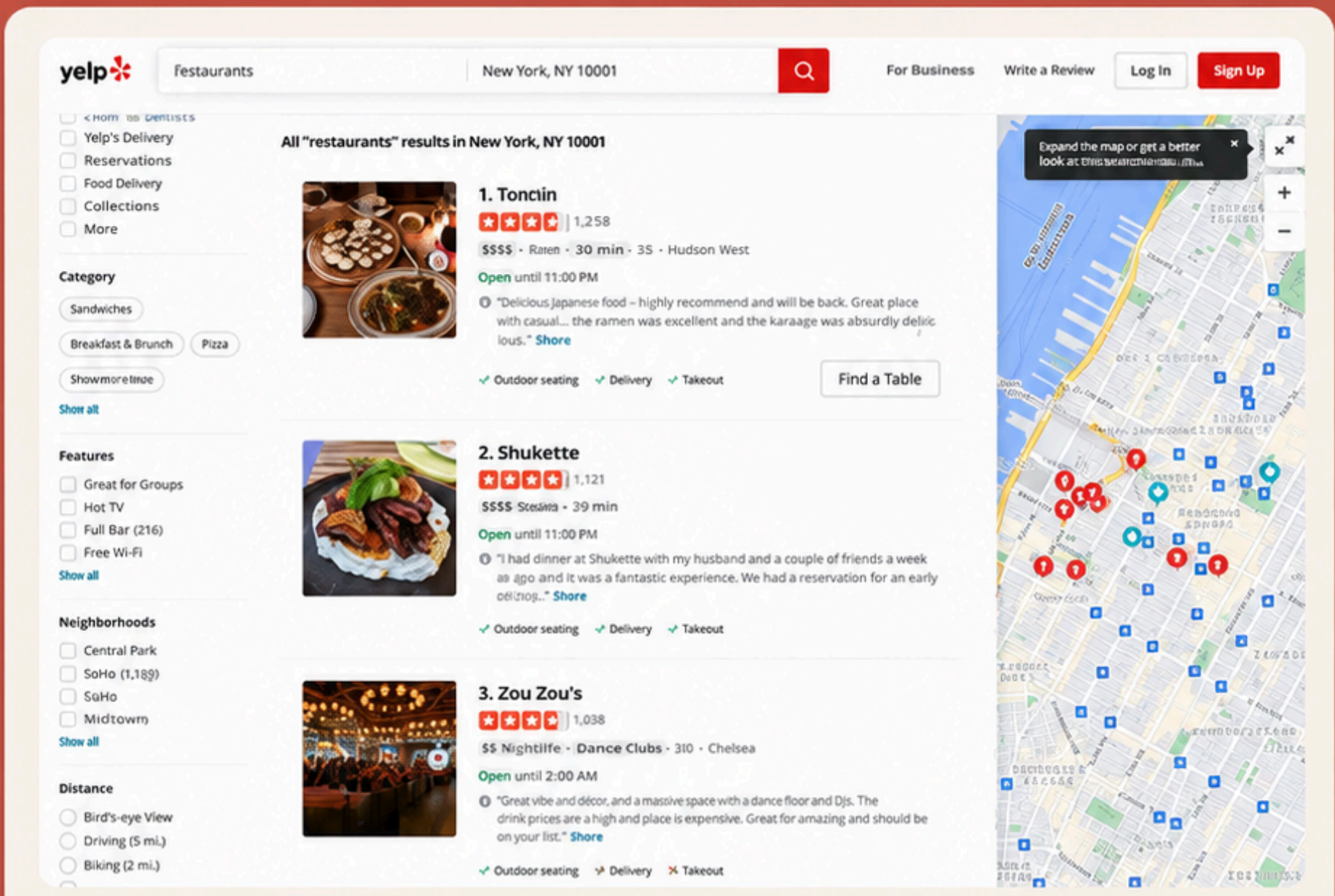
THE HUNGRY STUDENT TRAVELER

SHOULD YOU TRUST THE TOP RESULT?

A ranking is a starting point — not a verdict.



REAL YELP SEARCH RESULTS · NEW YORK

POCKET FIELD GUIDE

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO CHOOSING RESTAURANTS WHILE TRAVELING

REVIEWS · PRICE · DISTANCE · LOCAL ADVICE

CONTENTS

A FIELD GUIDE IN SIX SHORT CHAPTERS

CHAPTER 01

FAMILIARITY 03–04

When the safe choice makes sense

CHAPTER 02

FOOD PHOTOS 05–06

Look past the perfect image

CHAPTER 03

RATINGS & FAME 07–08

Separate reputation from experience

CHAPTER 04

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE 09

Taste what belongs to the place

CHAPTER 05

PLATFORMS & ARCHIVES 10–11

Compare who captures the story

CHAPTER 06

FINAL CHECKLIST 12

Build your own resource decision

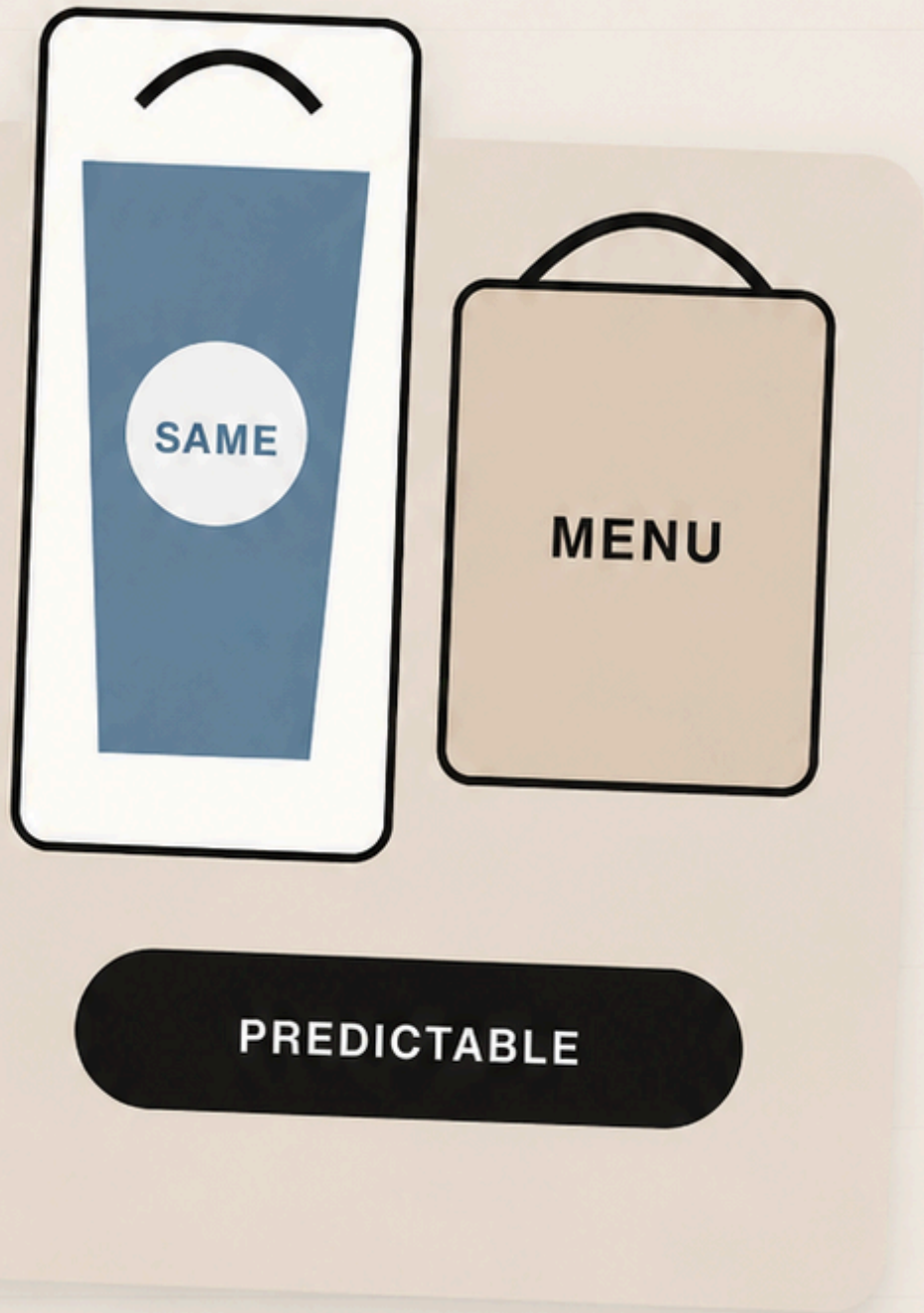
START ANYWHERE. COMPARE EVERYTHING.

FIELD NOTE 01 — FAMILIARITY

SAME LOGO. FEWER SURPRISES.

BEST FOR

- [x] Saving time
- [x] Controlling cost
- [x] Avoiding surprises



Trade-off: you may miss something local.

QUICK TEST — CHAIN OR LOCAL?

WHAT DO YOU NEED TODAY?

CHOOSE FAMILIAR

- [ ] You are tired
- [ ] Time is limited
- [ ] Budget is tight

CERTAINTY

CHOOSE LOCAL

- [ ] You have time
- [ ] You want discovery
- [ ] Food is the trip

DISCOVERY

There is no wrong answer —
only a better fit for today.

FIELD NOTE 02 — FOOD PHOTOS

LOOK BEYOND THE PERFECT PHOTO.

CHECK

- [x] Customer photos
- [x] Recent uploads
- [x] More than one angle



WATCH OUT

Filters. Close-ups. Perfect lighting.

FIELD NOTE 03 — RATINGS

DON’T STOP AT 4.8.

4.8

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CHECK

- [x] Review count
- [x] Recent comments
- [x] Repeated complaints

THE PATTERN MATTERS
MORE THAN ONE COMMENT.

READ BEYOND THE NUMBER.

PRESTIGE CHECK — AWARDS & FAME

PRESTIGE RAISES EXPECTATIONS.

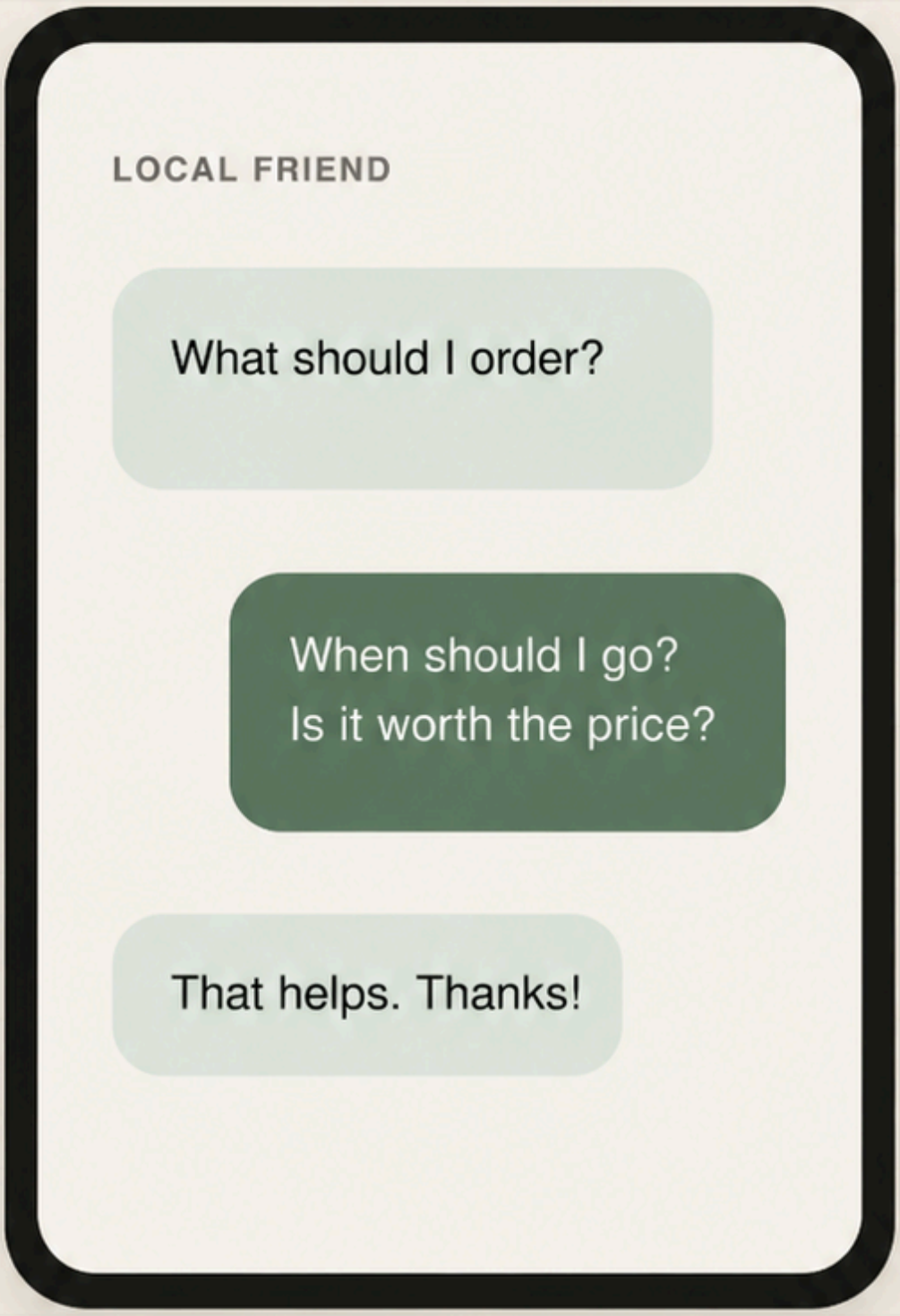


ASK YOURSELF

Is it worth the price and the wait?

FIELD NOTE 04 — LOCAL TIPS

ASK BETTER QUESTIONS.





Local advice adds what rankings miss.

REGIONAL FOOD CHECK

TASTE THE PLACE.

Try one dish that belongs to the destination.



KEY LIME PIE

KEY WEST



STONE CRAB

MIAMI



LOBSTER ROLL

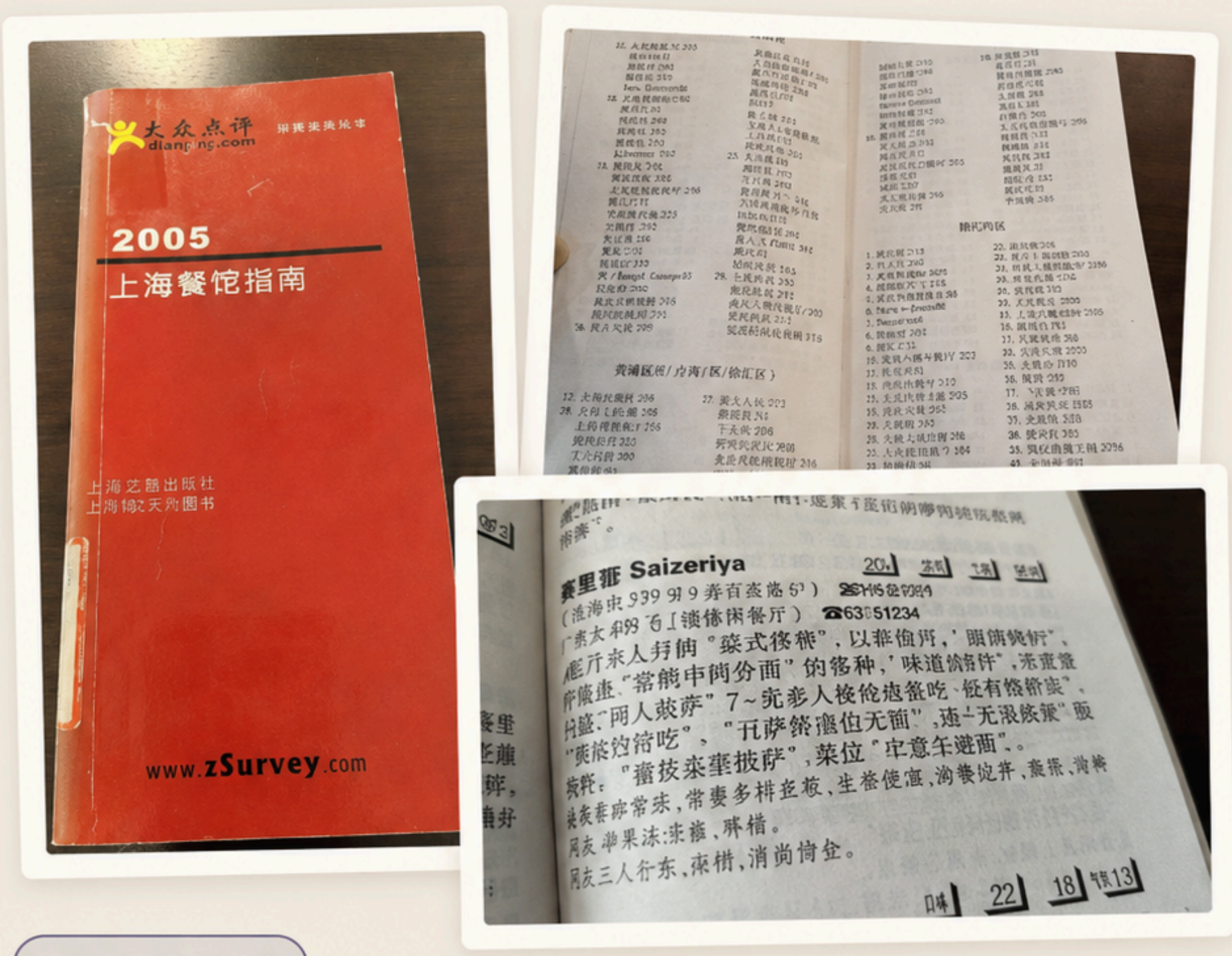
MAINE

Local favorite — or tourist-famous?

ARCHIVE NOTE — DIANPING 2005

THIS FORMAT WAS ALREADY HERE IN 2005.

Long before restaurant apps became an everyday habit.



20+ YEARS AGO

THE PLATFORM LOGIC ARRIVED EARLY.

Categories, prices, rankings, and short reviews—
all in print. Only the screen changed.

Source: Dianping, 2005 Shanghai Restaurant Guide. Images via Xiaohongshu ID 2018377680.

FIELD NOTE 05 — PLATFORM CHECK

COMPARE THE PLATFORMS.

The same search can look different across cultures.



YELP

BOTTEGA LOUIE · LOS ANGELES



TABELOG

TORIKEY · TOKYO



CATCHTABLE

BESTIÄLE · SEOUL



DIANPING

鼎泰丰 (DIN TAI FUNG) · SHANGHAI

LOCAL LENSES

Tabelog in Japan, Catchtable in Korea,
and Dianping in China are locally rooted.
Yelp offers a more international lens.

FINAL PAGE — SAVE THIS GUIDE

THE 30-SECOND RESTAURANT CHECK

- [ ] Recent reviews?
- [ ] Customer photos?
- [ ] Price and distance?
- [ ] Another platform?
- [ ] Something local?

THEN CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF.

Save this guide for your next trip.

FIELD GUIDE COMPLETE