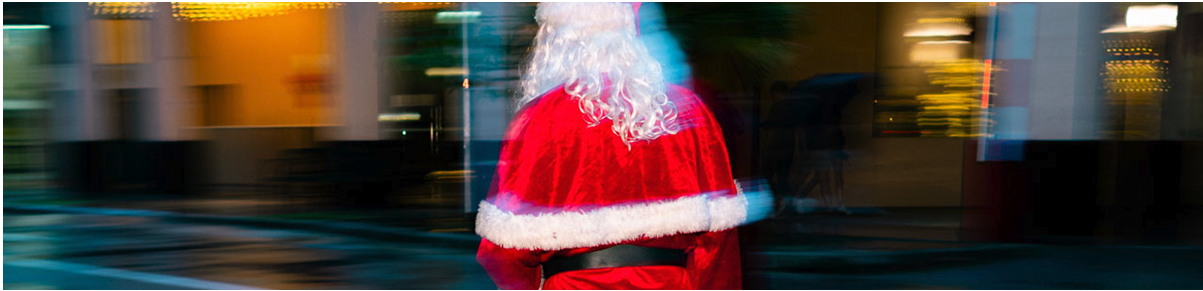




Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



2023 is wrapping up.

We hope we're finding you at an hour of relief—whether you're clocking off work for the rest of the year, finishing up your tasks, putting the final touches on your Christmas tree, drinking with friends, or simply lying unencumbered on your bed.

And if you're already planning ahead for your weekend feasts, we salute you.

We're past rounding up the year because, well, it's Christmastime, baby. We're out of the office for a week-long break before the new year arrives. Before that, we still have stories to tide you over the lulls of the holiday break.

We'll be back in your inbox come 2024 with a new RICE to introduce to you (*more on that after the year-end break!*).

For now, happy holidays, and a happier new year. We all need it.

*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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Reinventing the Reheated



Devil's curry is a spicy concoction associated with Christmas celebrations in Singapore. At least, depending on the households you visit in this season.

It's a heavyweight staple of Eurasian cuisine. And yet, you wouldn't find arguments about its authenticity floating about online, unlike chicken rice and nasi lemak. Maybe it's because Eurasian cuisine as a whole has been underrepresented in Singapore.

Or, maybe, as our writer Andre spells out, the discourse is uniquely entwined with identity—or the search for it. And it's been contested with such fierce dedication by those who cook and enjoy it the most that the rest of us either stand idly by, plate in hand, or overlook it altogether.

**Why You Shouldn't Get Into
Arguments About Devil's Curry
With Eurasians**

Towards a Larger Goal



Football has a footprint in Singapore—it's a national sport that's played anywhere from bright green fields to crusty void decks. It's played outdoors and indoors: the latter known to many as futsal.

Just as it is with football, futsal is a male-dominated sport. With a new Singaporean futsal league, however, that perception is changing. It comes with teething issues—and the admirable aim to make futsal mixed-gender comes with its own questions about fairness and sportsmanship.

**The Singaporean Futsal League
Where Women's Goals
Are Counted Twice**

A Village Revival



It was made clear to us post-2020: F&B in Singapore was not doing well. Not least, one of the premier lifestyle hubs around here: Holland Village.

The struggles of businessowners at the cultural enclave were outlined in clear, sobering news reports. Since then, however, have things gotten better?

We spoke to some of them—including the owner of the famous live music pub Wala Wala—ahead of the recent launch of the integrated hub One Holland Village, which aims to revitalise the neighbourhood.

**What Does the Future Look Like
for Holland Village?**

Humid Holidays



It's a tough comparison to draw now, what with all this rain and cool breeze we've been enjoying this week. But, once the new year arrives, we'll again be greeted by our signature balmy weather.

December has been a relatively kinder season for our comfort, but it's obviously not lost on us that we don't have snow, and we never will. Our version of a winter wonderland is entwined strictly with 19° air-conditioners and indoor escapades set up by Gardens by the Bay.

For our profile in this piece, though, the tropical festive season he enjoys here is perfect. Better, even, than what he enjoyed in his native Iceland.

**Singapore is not Christmas-y
Enough, But For This Iclander,
It's Perfect**

Presents of the Past



Unfortunately, Christmas is also a period for some whose holiday spirits are suffused by grief.

The holidays have not exactly been a time for celebration for Jenny Teo—in 2015, she was diagnosed with clinical depression after a tumultuous divorce. Later on, she found out her son suffered from the same thing.

What first robbed her of festive joy eventually took the life of someone she loved the most. This has made Christmases even harder for her in recent years. These days, however, she's beginning to find strength in celebration.

For Some, the Festive Period is a Poignant Reminder of Loss

Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- We asked our readers about their biggest regrets: specifically, the courses they now look back on as a question mark.
- As expected, anticipate heavy traffic at immigration checkpoints this holiday season. (*via ICA*)
- You can also expect stricter enforcement against Singaporeans with vapes at Changi Airport and other immigration checkpoints. (*via CNA*)
- Condominium owners are certainly not feeling merry about a significant surge in maintenance fees. (*via CNA*)
- A People's Association community event teaching Israeli folk dance has caught controversy online. (*via TODAY*)
- Upscale Japanese restaurant Teppan Kappou Kenji has been suspended for accumulating demerit points over a year—one offence apparently being a cockroach infestation at its Tanjong Pagar space. (*via The Straits Times*)



Happiness is elusive, happiness is eternal—whatever it is, we all find our ways to be happy when everything else feels gloomy.

Our daredevil correspondent, Alistair, goes Against the Grain for one last round this year to ask the streets an evergreen question: ***How do we find happiness?***

**The Irony of Singapore's
Happiness Against the Grain:
Episode 3**

We like to go out! We also hate our weather.

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

1. It's Christmas, so the lights will be shining extra bright this coming week. Here's where you can bask in the glow of this special season:
 - i. *Christmas Wonderland at Gardens by the Bay*—a festive celebration in the tropics with carnival rides and festive activities to boot.
 - ii. *Superstar Christmas at Sentosa*—it plays host to a 10-metre-tall Christmas Tree of Wonders.
 - iii. *Ice Magic: Winter Wonderland* at MBS' Bayfront Event Space—the closest you'll get to a freezing-cold holiday without buying a plane ticket.
 - iv. *Christmas With Our Trees by Millennia Walk*—its festive displays will blossom with eco-friendly love and resonance.
2. Concert film *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé* makes its Singapore debut this weekend at The Projector's new, swanky Cineleisure outlet.
3. Cult Japanese metal band *Galneryus* will finally perform for local fans at Esplanade Annexe Studio this Saturday.
 - i. According to the concert's promoter, Street Noise SG, the show has been *eight years in the making* since first getting in contact with the band's management.

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