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FOOD

PROMOTIONS

New Italian Delights At Dolce Vita

Italian restaurant Dolce Vita has more than 10 new dishes, including Barbabietola (salad), pan-seared octopus with creamy potatoes, confit datterino and taggiasca olives; and Fregola Sarda, poached red shrimps on bead-shaped pasta. WHERE: Mandarin Oriental Singapore, 5 Raffles Avenue MRT: Promenade WHEN: Lunch: noon - 2.30pm (weekdays); brunch: noon - 3pm (weekends); dinner: 6.30 - 10.30pm daily PRICE: Call to inquire TEL: 6885-3500 INFO: E-mail mosin-dining@mohg.com

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chopsuey Lo Hei & Giggling Pig Cocktail

Chopsuey Cafe's Lucky Lunar Lo Hei (\$28++ for half, \$48++ for full) offers a different take on yusheng with trout, kale, celeriac, sprouts, red radish, blueberries and wild rice. The bar team has also created a cocktail called The Giggling Pig (\$21++), which combines cognac with Cointreau topped with strawberry bak kwa. WHERE: 01-23, 10 Dempsey Road MRT: Botanic Gardens WHEN: Till Feb 19, 11.30am - 4pm & 6 - 11pm PRICE: Lo Hei: \$28++ - \$48++, cocktail \$21++ TEL: 9224-6611 INFO: pscafe.com

Feasts Of Prosperity At Rise

Welcome Chinese New Year at Rise with dishes such as eight treasures rice, braised pork knuckle and almond soup with glutinous rice dumpling. WHERE: Lobby Hotel Tower 1, Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Avenue MRT: Bayfront WHEN: Till Feb 19 (except Feb 14) PRICE: Lunch: from \$68++ an adult, \$25++ a child; dinner: from \$88++ an adult, \$38++ a child TEL: 6688-5525 INFO: E-mail Rise@MarinaBaySands.com

Li Bai's Festive Highlights And Set Menus

Celebrate at home with festive offerings from Li Bai Cantonese Restaurant. These include the Lo Hei Platters Of Fortune with abalone (\$93+ for small/\$168+ for large), lobster (\$128+/\$238+) or salmon (\$68+/\$118+). There is also a vegetarian version (\$55+/\$92+) Other takeaways include traditional nian gao with red dates and lotus seeds (\$50+) and Signature Buddha Jumps Over The Wall with three-head abalone (\$520+). For dine-in, there are set menus for two to 10 people with dishes such as braised superior bird's nest with lobster claw, and stewed fish noodles with Alaskan crabmeat and X.O. chilli sauce. WHERE: Sheraton Towers Singapore, 39 Scotts Road MRT: Newton WHEN: Till Feb 19, noon - 2.30pm & 6 - 10pm PRICE: Takeaways: \$50+ -\$520+; set menus: \$1,038++ (eight people) - \$3,488++ (10 people) TEL: 6839-5623 INFO: E-mail libai@sheratonsingapore.com

Wong Ah Yoke Food Critic recommends

SOUP PENCAI If you have tried takeaway penca Year on the stow

If you have tried heating up your takeaway pencai for Chinese New Year on the stove, you might have found that the bottom-most layer has a tendency to get burnt.

Some restaurants put a metal disc or a piece of woven rattan beneath the food to prevent this and it helps. Prima Tower Revolving Restaurant, however, does not have this problem because its version, called Fortune Pot In Peking Style, comes with a soup instead of the thick brown sauce of most pencai. Still, I'd suggest you use low to medium heat to prevent the food from being overcooked.

You get the premium ingredients typical of a Chinese New Year pencai, including sea cucumber, fish maw, abalone, dried oyster, prawns and mushrooms. There are roast pork and pig's tendon too.

The broth is light and flavourful and you can eat the pot on its own without rice – which is great if you're on a low-carbohydrate diet.

The Fortune Pot comes in two sizes - \$368 for six people and \$498 for 10 people. You need to order it at least two days in advance for both dine-in and takeaway. WHERE: Prima Tower Revolving Restaurant, 201 Keppel Road MRT: HarbourFront WHEN: Till Feb 19, 11am to 2.30pm, 6.30 to 10.30pm TEL: 6272-8822

PHOTOS: GOODWOOD PARK HOTEL, PRIMA TOWER REVOLVING RESTAURANT, WONG AH YOKE

WESTERN PUDDING WITH A CHINESE TOUCH

Desserts in Chinese restaurants are usually standard items such as mango pudding and almond cream. But not at Empress, the restaurant in the Asian Civilisations Museum. Desserts here are a highlight for me.

The one not to miss is Sticky Date & Longan Pudding (\$14), a popular Western pudding given a Chinese touch. The pudding is moist and rich, with bits of dried longan in it for added texture. It comes with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and gula melaka butterscotch, which has deeper flavours than ordinary sugar. I don't have a sweet tooth, but this, I am happy to eat any



HAWKER DEGUSTATION

Riding on Singapore's bicentennial celebrations this year, Goodwood Park Hotel has come up with a degustation menu at its Coffee Lounge showcasing local hawker dishes. Five dishes are selected from the cafe's a la carte menu to represent the nation's heritage hawker fare, and served course by course in smaller servings than a la carte versions.

The meal starts with two sticks of chicken satay served with ketupat and raw onion and cucumber. Next is rojak that comprises turnip, pineapple, cucumber, tau pok, kangkong, beansprouts and peanut; followed by Hainanese chicken rice and laksa. Dessert is bubur pulut hitam.

DELICIOUS OLD-SCHOOL FISH STEAMBOAT Much as I enjoy the

spicy hotpots that have popped up in recent years, I will always have room for an old-fashioned fish head steamboat



served with a charcoal-fed fire.

So I am happy to discover a new place to enjoy this Teochew dish.

Huats Kee Fish Head Steamboat, which opened about a week ago at The Grandstand, gets it right with a

full-bodied, tasty broth packed with pieces of fish,

tomatoes, beancurd, yam and Tientsin cabbage.

I tried the one with red garoupa (\$35 for small, \$48 for big) and the fish is fresh and firm. There is a cheaper version with angoli fish (\$25 and \$35).

The casual eatery also has a menu of zi char dishes and these are very good too.

I can see the Seafood Double Taste Hor Fun (\$8) easily winning fans with its combination of stir-fried hor fun and crispy, deep-fried hor fun drenched in a tasty gravy cooked with prawns and clams.

I like the Oyster Noodle (\$8) too, which is like an old-fashioned, home-cooked fried Hokkien mee. It comes with only yellow noodles though, which have a distinct alkaline taste. So if you have a problem with that, give this a miss. Go instead for Fried Oyster (\$8), which is like an oyster omelette, but without the starch and with very plump shellfish.

I saw a very tempting plate of La La Fried Bee Hoon (\$6) at the next table, but I was too stuffed. That is on my list for the next visit.

If you are wondering if the name of the stall has a spelling error, Huats means a lot of Huat, says the boss. Just what is needed for a prosperous Chinese New Year. WHERE: Huats Kee Fish Head Steamboat, 01-05 The Grandstand, 200 Turf Club Road MRT: Sixth Avenue OPEN: 11am to 2.30pm, 6 to 11pm daily



Fortune Congee From Mui Kee

Enjoy a taste of comfort and tradition at Mui Kee, which is offering three festive dishes. Fortune Congee (\$10.90++) comes with dried mussels and moss, while Abundant Harvest (\$16.80++) comprises lotus root, carrot, snow pea, celery, baby corn, wood-ear mushroom and red bell pepper. Treasure Seafood Pot (\$68.80++) contains abalone, Alaskan crab leg, Hokkaido scallop, dried mussels, mushroom and moss. WHERE: 01-12 Shaw Centre, 1 Scotts Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Till Feb 28 (closed this Mon & Tue), 11.30am -9.30pm PRICE: \$10.90++ - \$68.80++ TEL: 6737-2422 INFO: muikee.com.sg

Reunion Buffet Dinner White Rose Cafe

For the Reunion Buffet Dinner at White Rose Cafe, groups of at least four people will get a complimentary traditional Prosperity Lo Hei platter. The feast features delicacies such as time. WHERE: Empress, 01-03 Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place MRT: Raffles Place OPEN: 11.30am to 3pm (weekdays), 11am to 4pm (weekends), 6 to 10pm daily TEL: 6776-0777 My favourites are the rojak and chicken rice. The laksa is a little sweet for my liking and there are no cockles, which is a deal-breaker for some people. Priced at \$40 a person, the

Singapore Commemoration Local

Degustation Menu would work for those who want to eat all their favourite food at one sitting. It is great too as a treat for friends visiting from overseas.

WHERE: Coffee Lounge, Goodwood Park Hotel, 22 Scotts Road MRT: Orchard WHEN: Till April 30, noon to 2.30pm, 6 to 10.30pm TEL: 6730-1746

braised shark's fin soup with crabmeat, eight treasures chicken and stir-fried flower crab with chilli. (6 - 10pm): \$78++ an adult, \$39++ a child **TEL:** 6311-8195 **INFO:** E-mail cafe.mosaic@carltonhotel.sg

WHERE: Lobby level, York Hotel

Singapore, 21 Mount Elizabeth

INFO: E-mail whiterosecafe@

vorkhotel.com.sq

Prosperity Buffet At

Carlton's Cafe Mosaic

MRT: Orchard WHEN: Mon. 6.30 -

10pm PRICE: \$62++ an adult, \$30 a

child aged five - 11 **TEL:** 6737-0511

The Prosperity Buffet at Cafe Mosaic

offers seafood on ice, festive dishes

such as braised fish maw soup and

BBQ delights such as Peking duck.

cucumber and Chinese mushroom.

WHERE: Carlton Hotel Singapore,

76 Bras Basah Road MRT: City Hall

WHEN/PRICE: Mon dinner (6 - 10pm):

\$88++ an adult, \$42++ a child; Tue &

Wed lunch (noon - 2.30pm): \$68++ an

adult, \$34++ a child; Tue & Wed dinner

Mains include braised duck with sea

VALENTINE'S DAY

Call Me Cupid At Wakanui Grill Wakanui Grill's seven-course Valentine's Day Menu offers two options for couples - individual mains (\$228++ for two) or mains to share (\$288++). Dishes include spring lamb chop and chargrilled eel with foie gras. The Black Angus beef tomahawk or 1kg Ocean Beef OP ribeye is for sharing, while couples who prefer variety can enjoy a choice of Black Angus beef cube roll, Ocean Beef gyu katsu or Boston lobster thermidor. WHERE: 04-02 Marina One The Heart, 5 Straits View MRT: Downtown WHEN: Feb 8 - 16, 5.30 - 10.30pm PRICE: \$228++ - \$288++ a couple TEL: 6384-2665 INFO: E-mail enquiries@wakanui.sg

LeVeL33 In The Mood For Love Designed to be shared, the Valentine's Day menu at urban microbrewery LeVeL33 will take couples through the different feelings sparked by love that are related to tastes such as sweet and bitter. WHERE: 33-01 Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 1, 8 Marina Boulevard MRT: Downtown WHEN: Feb 13 - 15, 6pm PRICE: \$148++ a person TEL: 6834-3133 INFO: level33.com.sg

Say Ti Amo At Zafferano

Zafferano Italian Restaurant & Lounge offers a Romantic Terrace Experience with a three-course sharing platter and bottle of Spumante wine, a five-course Say Ti Amo menu and a three-course Sunset menu. Highlights include a Tajima wagyu beef tartare appetiser and mains such as roasted red mullet and oven-baked Bresse pigeon in corn leaves, salt crust roasted corn puree and red currant. WHERE: Level 43 Ocean Financial Centre, 10 Collyer Quay MRT: Raffles Place WHEN/PRICE: Feb 14 (from 5.30pm): Ti Amo menu, \$248++ a person (add \$60++ a person for wine pairing); Sunset menu, \$128++ a person (add \$45++ for wine pairing); Romantic Terrace Experience, \$198++ a couple TEL: 6509-1488 INFO: E-mail info@zafferano.sg

Spice It Up At Blue Jasmine

Blue Jasmine's light bites include pan-seared salmon cubes with a spicy, crispy salad of deep-fried rose petals. Savour mains such as roasted duck breast in red curry and the signature holy basil krapao with squid. Finish with a trio of desserts. Diners get a complimentary duo of chocolate pralines. WHERE: Level 5 Park Hotel Farrer

Park, 10 Farrer Park Station Road

MRT: Farrer Park WHEN: Feb 14, 11.30am lunch (a la carte only), 6pm dinner (set only) PRICE: Set: \$78++ a couple TEL: 6824-8851 INFO: E-mail hello@ bluejasmine.com.sg

WINE EVENT

The Cuisine Of Chef Lino Sauro With Frescobaldi Wines

The six-course menu includes raw shrimp (ama ebi), poached mackerel and housemade chitarra spaghetti. Featured wines include Pomino Bianco 2017 and Nipozzano Chianti Rufina Riserva 2014. WHERE: Gattopardo Ristorante di Mare, 34 Tras Street MRT: Tanjong Pagar WHEN: Feb 21, 7pm PRICE: \$161++ a person (\$128.80++ for HSBC cardholders) TEL: 6319-4038 INFO: E-mail gustoitaliano@sph.com.sg

