

FoodPicks

Eunice Quek Food Correspondent recommends

MODERN ASIAN CUISINE AT BABA CHEWS BAR AND EATERY

It started as a Peranakan restaurant in Katong and, now, Baba Chews Bar and Eatery has broadened its menu to focus on a wider spectrum of Asian flavours. Although some Peranakan signatures remain, about 80 per cent of the menu has changed.

Highlights include the otah yu tiao (\$12) appetiser, with charcoal yu tiao acting as buns that sandwich housemade otah and a sambal sabayon sauce; XO pork belly char siew rice bowl (\$19), with housemade char siew, sunny-side-up egg, rice and XO sauce; and laksa salmon (\$26), with laksa sauce, Asian greens, crispy beancurd puffs.

I am pleasantly surprised that the creamy laksa sauce goes extremely well with the salmon. Perhaps extra cockles will jazz up the dish further. Another combination that worked is the chicken rendang lasagne (\$18, right), where the cheese and rendang make for a tasty pairing.

The dishes mentioned are not very spicy, so for something with more kick, order the chilli crab tagliatelle (\$20), with tempura soft shell crab, and sous-vide egg.

The extensive menu has Western options as well, but I suggest sticking to the Asian and local flavours, which is what Baba Chews' head chef Alvin Leong knows best. **WHERE:** Baba Chews Bar and Eatery, 01-01 Katong Square, 86 East Coast Road MRT: Eunos **OPEN:** 6.30am to 11pm (Sundays to Thursdays), 6.30am to midnight (Fridays and Saturdays) **TEL:** 6723-2025 **INFO:** www.facebook.com/babachewssg



PHOTOS: BABA CHEWS, EUNICE QUEK, OMURICE KEISUKE

HIP PASTRIES IN JURONG

Two-month-old Lee's Confectionery, which serves dainty cakes, is something I would expect in hipster Tiong Bahru, not tucked away in a Housing Board block a five-minute walk from Chinese Garden MRT station.

The minimalist cafe displays one showpiece cake (\$7 or \$8) from each flavour and the cakes are assembled upon order by owner Lee Yin Quan, who has a diploma in French pastry from culinary institute Ferrandi Paris. This allows the pastry base for the cakes to be as crisp and fresh as possible and minimises cake wastage.

I try four of the seven flavours available. For Dale (\$8, clockwise from above left), chunks of matcha sponge cake are stacked into a mound and, as you eat it, there are bright pops of flavour and texture from the passionfruit jam and matcha ganache.

Jiao (\$8), Mr Lee's version of a banana cake, is a delicate banana sponge cake with a banana filling and oat crumble, complete with a slice of caramelised banana on the top.

I can't resist a good Tart (\$8) and this one is filled with lime cream and almond cake – a lovely combination.



Another favourite is Puff (\$7), where Earl Grey tea-infused kaya is sandwiched between crisp puff pastries. I wouldn't mind a stronger Earl Grey flavour and this option goes best with tea. Pair the cakes with coffee by Tiong Hoe Specialty Coffee from \$4 or tea by Ette Tea at \$3.50. **WHERE:** Lee's Confectionery, 01-59, Block 343 Jurong East Street 31 **MRT:** Chinese Garden **OPEN:** Noon to 10pm (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), 11am to 10pm (weekends) **TEL:** 9183-8447 **INFO:** www.facebook.com/leesconfectionery or order online at leesconfectionery.oddle.me



COMFORT CARBS

Trust Mr Keisuke Takeda, founder of the popular Ramen Keisuke chain, to be spot-on with his new

concept. Aside from his ramen brands here, he has also done well with his gyoza, tendon and beef sukiyaki don outlets.

His two-month-old Omurice Keisuke outlet specialises in omurice (above) – omelette draped like a blanket over fried rice with ketchup. Prices start at \$9.90 and you can choose a sauce (wafu, demi-glace, creamy white sauce or chilli tomato sauce) and salad.

Carb lovers can get the Omurice Combo (\$12.90), which includes a choice of pasta – Neapolitan or mentaiko. I go for the latter and add a cheese sauce (add \$2), which is served tableside.

While this step may seem unnecessary, there is nothing more appetising than to watch, and take videos of, the melted cheese slathered over the omurice.

And if the carbs are not enough, side dishes include chicken teriyaki hamburger (\$3), pork spare ribs (\$3) and deep-fried chicken wing (\$2).

WHERE: 04-01 Bugis+, 201 Victoria Street MRT: Bugis **OPEN:** 11.30am to 10pm daily **TEL:** 6634-4558 **INFO:** www.keisuke.sg/omurice-keisuke-bugis-plus

FOOD

PROMOTIONS

Explore Sumatran Coast At Mandarin Oriental's Mo Bar

The afternoon tea at Mo Bar is inspired by the coast of Sumatra. Items include pomegranate granite with fresh lime, beef rendang with potatoes in a kueh pie tee cup and spicy Sumatran chicken curry.

WHERE: Mandarin Oriental Singapore, 5 Raffles Avenue MRT: Promenade **WHEN:** Mon - Fri: 3 - 5pm; Sat, Sun & public holidays: 12.30 - 2.30pm & 3 - 5pm **PRICE:** \$48++ a person (\$88++ for two); 65++ a person, includes cocktail or mocktail; \$68++ a person, includes glass of champagne **TEL:** 6885-3500 **INFO:** E-mail mosin-dining@mohg.com

Strangers' Reunion's New All-Day Brunch Menu

Kick off the all-day brunch with the light snapper ceviche (\$13.90++), firm chunks of snapper cured in lime juice and served with creamy avocado, aromatic cilantro as well as red onions and shaved fennel. Other dishes include The Reunion Trail Salad (\$12.80++) and chicken and waffles (\$17.90++). There are also dishes created from "upcycled" ingredients that would otherwise be discarded, such as salmon skin chips (\$11.90++). **WHERE:** 33/35 Kampong Bahru Road **MRT:** Outram Park **WHEN:** 9am - 6pm daily **PRICE:** TEL: 6222-4869 **INFO:** strangersreunion.com

Salmon Ramen At Uma Uma

Uma Uma Ramen's Salmon Ramen comes with salmon slices, cherry tomatoes, Hakata noodles, spring onions and eggs in a new Uma fish broth. It is available as a set (\$23.80++) with dashi maki tamago (three pieces) and hot or cold green tea or a la carte (\$16.80++). **WHERE (MRT):** 01-41 Forum The Shopping Mall, 583 Orchard Road (Orchard); 02-06 Nihon Food Street, Millenia Walk, 9 Raffles Boulevard (Promenade) **WHEN:** Mon - Sat: 11.30am - 10pm; Sun: 11.30am - 9.30pm **PRICE:** \$16.80++ - \$23.80++ **TEL:** 6235-0855 (Forum)/ 6837-0827 (Millenia) **INFO:** E-mail info@umamaramen.com

Bedrock Bar & Grill's World Meat Series

Bedrock Bar & Grill kicks off this year's World Meat Series with Australian Charolais Angus Beef cuts. The menu features Tournedos Rossini (with foie gras, saute spinach and red wine

sauce), Slow Cooked Beef Burger (with fried egg, caramelised onion, cheese and fries) and Butter Basted Ribeye (with confit garlic, thyme, peas and bacon and horseradish cream). **WHERE:** 01-05 Pan Pacific Serviced Suites Orchard Singapore, 96 Somerset Road MRT: Somerset **WHEN:** Till March 31, noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm **PRICE:** From \$42++ **TEL:** 6238-0054 **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@bedrock.com.sg

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Half-price For 2nd Order At Kam's Roast

To celebrate International Women's Day, Kam's Roast is offering 50 per cent off the second order of its signature roasts, such as Signature Roast Duck and Suckling Pig. **WHERE:** 01-04/07 Pacific Plaza, 9 Scotts Road MRT: Orchard **WHEN:** Today, from 6pm; tomorrow & Sun, 10.30am - 10pm **PRICE:** Call to inquire **TEL:** 6836-7788 **INFO:** facebook.com/kamsroast

Spring In Tokyo Afternoon Tea At Crossroads Cafe

In conjunction with International Women's Day today, Swissotel Merchant Court Singapore's Crossroads Bar will launch, among other activities, its Spring In Tokyo Afternoon Tea. Expect items such as unagi kabayaki open-face sandwiches and sweet treats such as Japanese sponge cake. **WHERE:** Level 11 Swissotel Merchant Court Singapore, 20 Merchant Road MRT: Clarke Quay **WHEN:** Till May 31, 3 - 5pm **PRICE:** \$42++ a person **TEL:** 6239-1847/1848 **INFO:** E-mail dining.merchantcourt@swissotel.com

WINE EVENT

Spring Court Celebration Dinner With Handpicked Wines

On the menu of the eight-course dinner are dishes such as Spring Court traditional popiah, roasted whole boneless chicken stuffed with minced prawn and steamed whole pomfret fish in Kirin-style. Featured Handpicked wines include Regional Selection Chardonnay (Yarra Valley 2017) and Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River 2015). **WHERE:** 52-56 Upper Cross Street MRT: Chinatown **WHEN:** Tue, 7pm **PRICE:** \$213++ (\$170.40++ for payments by Citi cards) **TEL:** 6319-4038 **INFO:** E-mail asianmasters@sph.com.sg



JAPANESE FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCE

Get groovy and dance along with the Japanese folk dancers.

📅 Sat, 16 Mar & Sat, 30 Mar
🕒 2.00pm | 2.00pm & 4.00pm
📍 The Canopy



J-POP IDOL GROUPS PERFORMANCE

Join our local talents and get energised with a session of J-Pop tunes that will get you dancing through the evening.

📅 Sat, 30 Mar
🕒 Tokimeki JUMP: 5.15pm
Natsuiro Party: 6.40pm
📍 The Meadow



KOTO & ERHU PERFORMANCE

Marvel at the lush sounds of Japanese koto and Chinese erhu in this collaborative performance.

📅 Sun, 10 Mar
🕒 2.00pm
📍 The Canopy



ANISONG CONCERT

Don't miss this anisong concert featuring famous artistes like Ayako Ohashi, ReoNa and more!

📅 Sat, 30 Mar & Sun, 31 Mar
🕒 7.30pm | 7.15pm
📍 The Meadow



CELEBRITY COSPLAYER MEET & GREET

Get up close with your favourite celebrity cosplayers including Thames Malerose from Thailand, MON from Taiwan and the dynamic duo Olivie & Luffy from Hong Kong.

Q&A Session
📅 Sat, 30 Mar & Sun, 31 Mar
🕒 4.45pm & 5.45pm | 5.00pm



ANIME SCREENING

Delve into the animated worlds of mystery, laughter, joy and tears with the latest anime movie titles.

📅 Sat, 30 Mar & Sun, 31 Mar
🕒 9.45pm
📍 The Meadow



TAIKO PERFORMANCE

Feel the rhythm of the famous traditional Japanese drum!

📅 Sun, 24 Mar
🕒 2.00pm & 4.00pm
📍 The Canopy



SENDAI SUZUME ODORI PERFORMANCE

Watch this unique Sparrow Dance brought to life by both Japanese and Singaporean entertainers.

📅 Sat, 9 Mar & Sun, 10 Mar
🕒 3.45pm | 4.00pm
📍 The Canopy



Come down to enjoy a truly Japanese-themed and fun-filled time with your friends and family

Free Programmes

Find out more information about these and many other programmes at gardensbythebay.com.sg/sakura. See you there!

Join us as a Friend of the Gardens!

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18 Marina Gardens Drive, Singapore 018953

