

Kew Gardens Oriental Cuisine

This Chinese has now opened a restaurant to complement their already popular take-away service

We've been getting our regular Chinese take-away from the Kew Gardens Oriental Cuisine for more than 15 years. It's consistently good food and you know once it's been ordered you'll usually be eating within half an hour as their delivery service is so good.

The local owners, the lovely Debbie and Simon Poon, have now opened a restaurant at the back of the premises on North Road in Kew, serving lunch and dinner, Tuesday to Sunday.

They invited me to visit the restaurant and I was intrigued to see how a well-known local take-away would fare serving customers at tables.

Slip past the take-away section at the front and you enter the main restaurant, with around a dozen tables. The décor is plain and simple – Chinese artwork on the walls and dark wood tables and chairs – and the welcome warm and inviting, as Debbie is really keen for her guests to enjoy their evening.

The menu has the usual wide choice of Chinese dishes, but we opted for the Special Set Dinner for Two, which at £25, is great value for the enormous amount of food we had!

We started with a large plate of crispy seaweed, spicy spare ribs, Szechuan prawns with chilli and requested the sesame prawn toast instead of pan-fried dumplings. The starter was almost a meal in itself with delicious crispy seaweed that melted in the mouth, prawns



potent with chilli, tender ribs and crunchy sesame prawn toast.

For our second course we had a different take on the usual crispy duck, having crispy aromatic lamb served with hoisin sauce but wrapped in healthier lettuce leaves instead – very crispy and very tasty. Thank goodness this was a smaller portion otherwise we would have really struggled

'The welcome is warm and inviting...'

with the main course of sweet and sour chicken, prawns with seasonal vegetables and Singapore fried rice. The chicken was tender with the right balance between sweet and sour and the prawns were full of flavour and juicily succulent.

Having already previously been in for lunch, I saw that local businesses and workers from the National Archives etc are making the most of having a Chinese with a great set lunch menu on their doorstep as it's a great place for a meal if you've only got under an hour. In the evenings, I think it would work particularly well for larger groups who want great food at a good price. Try it and see for yourself!

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review