

Monkey Magic on Cloud 9

Now's the time to waggle two fingers in front of your pursed lips and make that flicky/blowy noise. Don't play dumb with me... you know what I'm talking about. And don't pretend you've not tried on the bad lip sync martial arts chitchat!

Monkey Magic is a funky new Surry Hills eatery that channels the good vibrations of the cult Japanese TV show. It brings a touch of New York flair to the Sydney food scene with exposed brickwork, a quirky open-plan layout and recycled timber flooring. The restaurant has a multi-tiered Japanese-style layout with street-side lounge and upstairs bar, dining area and open kitchen. Connecting the different spaces is a two-storey tree sculpture using plantation tree trunks in their natural form.

Designed by Pat Laoyont from Archstallation, who previously designed Spice I Am in Darlinghurst, it combines raw materials and earthy colours. Sandblasted brickwork, stained timber flooring and exposed industrial ducting create a modern rustic look. The kitchen wall features a laser-cut rusted steel artwork, created by contemporary artist Kyoshi. Downstairs, a black Pandomo floor and rendered plaster walls make for a sophisticated New York-style bar.

Chef Hidetoshi Tsuboi (pictured right) takes care of the food combining traditional Oriental flavours with modern Western techniques. The Monkey Magic cocktails have also set tongues wagging. I like the sound of The Dr Zeuss!: a psychedelic mix of gin, St. Germain liqueur, absinthe, lemon, cucumber, egg white and soda. *Hey Piggys!*

» **Monkey Magic:** 410 Crown St, Surry Hills NSW
(02) 9358 4444 or www.monkeymagic.com.au

