



monkey magic

With Monkey Magic nestled comfortably in the heart of Surry Hills, I would thrust my way onto Sun Wukong's somersault cloud just to be there again. The glistening glass-door of the restaurant sets apart "Heaven" and "Earth" – a chic haven tinted with a vibrant, yet relaxing mix of artistic panache and a sleek tinge of modernism that complements the tranquillity of its ambience. The dimly lit ostentatious setting of the restaurant further creates an enticing affair for couples, family and friends. With a touch of western influence, Monkey Magic has definitely taken the conventional Japanese fusion to much greater heights.

As we tucked ourselves comfortably in a cosy spot at the back of the restaurant, I felt right at home. The staff greeted us with all smiles and warmly introduced mouth-watering recommendations from the menu – displaying an impeccable service that left me very much impressed.

Needless to say, the food was far beyond just good. To get our tastebuds rolling, the Ox Tail Tortellini served with seared scallops and wasabi jus is one dish that screams "delicious" in your mouth; definitely a sumptuous teaser as a start.

For all sushi fans out there, Monkey Magic has included a full page of various sushi and sashimi on the menu just for you! What is not to be missed is without a doubt the Assorted Sashimi. It is self explanatory, a generous variety of tuna, salmon, kingfish, scallop and snapper sushi made it incomparable to any other. Bite-sized sushi rolls are also available for nibbles; the Soft Shell Crab Roll and Salmon and Avocado Roll are highly recommended.

The main course was yet another satisfying part of our scrumptious meal. Praises were sung across the table as we sunk our teeth into their juicy Twice Cooked Pork Belly. Words simply fail to describe the succulency of the meat. It was truly heavenly! To maximise the savoury experience, a bottle of their recommended red wine – Crio Malbec/2007 will go along with it extremely well.

We are definitely not done yet! It is a must to indulge in at least one of their delectable dessert. Their sinful, yet moist Chocolate Pudding is popular among all chocolate lovers. The hot oozing chocolate would tempt one to lick the plate clean! I know I did. For a less messy preference, savour your way into their Tiramisu. Garnished with macadamia nut biscotti, it complements the sweetness that is most suitable for your taste. Else, spoil yourself to an inimitable choice when Japanese-meet-Western; can you say Banana, White Chocolate and Shiso Harumaki! Harumaki means spring roll and it confines the banana and white chocolate into its savoury realms. Along with raspberry coulis and green tea ice-cream makes this dish even more complete.

Much to my dismay, the night eventually had to come to an end. Nonetheless, it is a place worth going back again. In only just six months since it was established, Monkey Magic has already earned itself a remarkable reputation



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