

Savvy Sidelines

Some fine dining restaurants have more affordable, but just as tasty offshoots that you should most definitely check out. By **Belinda Wan**

Well-known and perpetually popular restaurants have names that precede their reputation—plus bills to match too. But some of these big players have sidelines or an offshoot of their restaurant that is not only easier on the pocket—but just as tasty. We took more than just a bite at each of these restaurants and compared them to their famous predecessors to assess how well they would fare on the chow scale and how affordable the meals are compared to their pricier relative. Here's what we found out.

Space @ My Humble House

Where: #02-25 Esplanade Mall, 8 Raffles Ave., 6423-1881.

Famous relation: My Humble House (#02-27/29 Esplanade Mall, 8 Raffles Ave., 6423-1881).

Point of departure: A fine dining institution (it was previously ranked the world's 94th best restaurant), My Humble House's esoteric, poetic dish names are a unique feature ("Dancing With the Wind," anyone?) in its extensive menu.

At Space @ My Humble House, its more affordable alternative, you get the same excellent chow, soothing ambiance and cool dish names. The difference lies in the very specific a la carte menu that focuses on mains. The menu consists of four main dishes and a selection of weekly specials—making it the place to hit for a quick lunch or dinner. The fact that the two can co-exist so nicely on the same floor attests to the success of this concept.

Chow pow: Mama Leong's (it refers to Director of Kitchens Sam Leong's mother) chicken rice (\$9.90) is the scrumptious signature dish here that must be tried. Other fab must-tries include the Rock and Rock salad (\$14), a fun, refreshing salad where all ingredients are shaken in a large jar, the flavorful rack of lamb in herbal soup (\$14) and the delightfully varied My Humble House Desserts Delight (\$18)—which comprises a medley of deliciously inspired desserts.

Price point: The lunch sets at My Humble House cost about \$28-38, while the dinner sets cost about \$48 and above. At Space @ My Humble House, the mains cost \$12-14, while the famous chicken rice costs only \$9.90.

Verdict: The reasonably-priced mains at Space @ My Humble House are a complete steal, considering the quality of the food. Splurge if you want at My Humble House—but if you stressed out trying to decide where to fill your stomach in the mad rush before catching a performance at The Esplanade, Space @ My Humble House is a sure-fire bet.

