



A taste of Thailand in Singapore

I LOVE Thailand, especially Bangkok. And one of the reasons is the food there.

Obviously, you get the best Thai food in Thailand, but there are places in Singapore that succeed at bringing that taste over.

I'm always on the lookout for good Thai food and I found one in Hougang.

It's called Nakhon and it's hard to miss because the first thing you notice about it is the portrait of Thai king hanging inside.

And if you dismiss the waiter's Singaporean accent, you could well imagine yourself at the foodcourt in MBK Center in Bangkok.

Three years ago, I started a quest to find the perfect kai-giew mu sap, or minced pork omelette. I had chanced upon the dish at a tiny Thai restaurant and since then, I've been on the lookout for it.

Guess what I asked for at Nakhon? Minced pork omelette, of course. To round it off, I added chicken green curry and prawn tom yum.

The omelette (\$6) isn't on the menu, but you can ask for it. This version comes with onions, which changed its taste and texture.

It didn't work for me.

The tom yum (\$6) saved the day, though.

My dining partner and I had two versions – the clear and the creamy.

The clear soup looked deceptively mild but it was fiery.

But it was the creamy version that won me over. The soup was loaded with coconut milk and the aroma was amazing.

Not only that, there were large servings of prawns and vegetables.

The green curry chicken (\$8) was also tasty, with a thick gravy that was great on its own.

We also ordered the mixed vegetables (\$6), but it came overcooked and too salty.

The dishes were cheap – another reminder of Thailand – and while the menu is small, it offers almost everything you might want.



One thing I didn't like though, was that Nakhon charges \$1 for a plate of plain white rice. That's too expensive. It also charges a pricey \$3 for a glass of watery Thai iced tea.

Getting there can get rather tricky. It's within walking distance from Kovan MRT and near the Paya Lebar Kovan Community Centre.

If you're taking a bus, take 53, 62 or 113 and alight at Blk 232, Hougang Ave 1 and walk a very short distance.

Or you can take buses 112, 115 or 119 and alight along Hougang Street 21.

It's wonderful to find a piece of Thailand in the heartland.

– Yeoh Wee Teck

FYI

WHAT:

Nakhon Kitchen

WHERE:

Blk 212 Hougang Street 21, #01-341

CALL:

6286 8785

WHEN:

10am to 11pm, daily

YUMMY:

(From above left) Chicken green curry, creamy prawn tom yum and minced pork omelette.

