



r e s t a u r a n t r e v i e w s

GOLD WHEEL CHINESE Campbelltown

I never did like wallets. Until the past year it was maybe 20 years since I owned one. A recent visit to Melbourne saw me relent to peer group pressure and buy a small (business card size) blue leather wallet (one more time - I am not gay). Anyway, I have struggled to come to terms with the systematic use of this male fashion icon.

OK, I got to the restaurant and realised I had left the bloody thing at home. Problem was that the waiter had already shown Chad to the table - seriously. I vainly went back and searched the car, then returned to grab Chad and exit the restaurant (heads down). We rushed home - me cursing stupid bloody wallets. There it was sitting on the bedside table - laughing at me. We returned to the Gold Wheel Chinese Restaurant at Maclin Lodge in Campbelltown. Back to the exact same table too.

We sat down to the menu and wine list. I scanned the 'by the glass' list. Only one red and one white - disappointing in this day and age. But as I have said before, wine just doesn't seem to be in the Asian psyche the way it is in ours. The glass of Victoria Park unwooded chardonnay was ok... not great, just ok.

The Gold Wheel Chinese Restaurant is unusual in our area. One of only three that I know of that serves Peking Duck. About \$50 for two people is pretty reasonable for this Chinese indulgence. I have enjoyed interpretations of this dish across Sydney. Gold Wheel's is not

the best I have tried - but it was a long way from the worst. Chad loved it. He implored me to give the dish a great write up. "That was beautiful," he glowed with enthusiasm as he placed his chopsticks on the side of his bowl.

He did well with his chopsticks too. At 14 Chad finally applied himself to the ancient implements only recently and a quick lesson a few weeks ago had been retained. Chad also admitted to me on the night that he had only recently figured out why everyone complains about petrol being \$1.50. "I used to think \$1.50 is not really that much money," he confessed. "Then I realised that filling the car takes like 50 of those \$1.50s." Chad is a very honest kid. Reminds me of childrens' first encounters with ATMs. "Just get some more money out of the machine Mummy!"

The Golden Wheel Restaurant is part exotic old heritage dining room and part tired Chinese restaurant. The food here is good. The service is only OK. The whole place reeks of a business treading water. 20 years in business can do that to you. A spruce up and a little more enthusiasm would create the Chinese dining experience untouchable in Macarthur.