



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

NARELLAN COURT CHINESE Narellan

I had dined at Narellan Court Chinese Restaurant before but only from their lunch menu. With some big tips flying around from local dining experts (self rated) I had to try Narellan Court's menu.

Just Brooke and I on a midweek evening. I was driving so no wine. But yes, Narellan Court is licensed and the wine list is pretty good. Peter Lehman, Rosemount, Oyster Bay, West Cape Howe and heaps of other great Aussie and NZ wine makers. Fairly mainstream but contemporary at least.

We started with San Choy Bow. This traditional Cantonese appetiser has become an Australian favourite too. Literally meaning "lettuce delights" the Narellan Court version falls into this category. I have many that have been greasy lettuce nightmares. Owner Simon serves us a side dish of oyster chilli sauce. Yummo! It adds immensely to the crispy, tasty lettuce delights. If you like a bit of heat, ask for this side dish. Simon told us it is not served as a standard but he has many customers who love it. I did. Brooke didn't go near it.

Next our mains. Brooke's dining cowardice limits my choices. She will eat no seafood at all. "But that is Simon's point of difference," I pleaded. There was no negotiating. We decided on Narellan Court Crispy Skin Chicken with Chilli Peking Sauce and a serving of Chinese vegetables. It was all beautiful. However I would have loved to have tried his Salt & Pepper Soft Shell Crab or the scallop dish he went to great lengths to sell to me. Although,

with those dishes I would have been very tempted to indulge in a glass of wine.

Simon has many specials on his menu and even a few late additions (in pen). His restaurant is one of few in our district to offer live lobster, king crabs and fish. The Chinese love their seafood and regulars at Narellan Court often leave the selections to Simon. "I have a regular table every Thursday night," the affable owner told us. "They leave the ordering to me so we make sure we have some special dishes for them."

Narellan Court Chinese even has those individually sealed warm towelettes! Who doesn't love them? And fortune cookies! Well not so much fortune cookies as Chinese proverb cookies. Mine said, "A scholar's ink lasts longer than a martyr's blood." Great words, and just as relevant today as when they were written hundreds of years ago. Quality cookies!

Narellan Court presents as a typical suburban Chinese restaurant. The food on offer is not typical. If you are a real foodie, talk to Simon before you dine. I am sure he will be more than happy to present some very special meals to you and your friends. Be adventurous.