



By NAZRI NOOR

Square's weekend high tea highlights



The Square Restaurant at Novotel 1Borneo returns to full form with a new weekend high tea buffet, offering some fantastic local dishes in a single spread. Deviating slightly from its original buffet concept, Square currently serves an array of predominantly Malay dishes, tinged with hints of other cuisine on the side. A long list of appetisers is available for starters, representing a mix of Malay and western recipes. Local favourites like hinava, rojak buah, sotong kangkung, kerabu and gado-gado are easily found at the buffet, as are a number of simple (but still delicious) sandwiches and fanciful canapés.

An open kitchen serves three main dishes during each high tea buffet, a selection that changes regularly. Diners are allowed, and, in fact, are encouraged to sample any of the main courses, and are free to return for seconds. Hungry patrons may even consider ordering all three available courses in one fell swoop. Specific requests for seasoning and such may also be made at the open kitchen, as the mains are prepared right in front of you.

The show kitchen features a varied assortment of dishes that again features a mix of local and international items, such as nasi goreng kampung, samosas, spring rolls, and Square's own specialty, Kinabalu rendang. This last dish was a hit when we first tasted it at Square, and the recipe remains delicious to this day. Try having some on a bit of baguette from the pastry counter for a change; it sounds unusual, but tastes fantastic. Dessert has always been one of Square's strongest points, and the restaurant never fails to impress in this respect. The desserts include numerous Malay cakes and sweetmeats, fresh fruit, puddings, pies and pastries, and a delightful quantity of colourful meringues. These simultaneously crisp and chewy bite-sized delights come in a number of colours and flavours and go extremely well with a cup of coffee or tea.

InSites was also privy to a newly unveiled pastry that is in the running to become Square's cake of the month: an incredible Mango Cake, featuring layers of soaked sponge cake (quite like tiramisu) and mango creme. The surprise twist is the complete absence of frosting on the surface of the confection. Instead, it is covered in moist, paper-thin slices of fresh, ripe mango. Quite an original effort, and definitely something to look forward to.

Indulge in a veritable melting pot of local favourites at The Square Restaurant and treat yourself to a satisfying high tea buffet. Take the family or some friends along and spend a lazy Sunday enjoying this tempting spread. The buffet is priced at RM25++ for adults and RM12.50++ for children aged 12 and below, and is available from 12pm to 3.30pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. For more information, call 088-529888 or send an email to fboffice@novotel1borneo.com.

