

### ASIA PALACE RESTAURANT:

#### A Place Transformed

By Cayo N. Marschner

For the past several years, many of us locals, including Saint Mary's staffers and students, have known this restaurant first as Shangrila, then as Fan's Chinese restaurant.

On May 2, after a month of remodeling, new owners Allan Lin and his wife, Jie Wang, have transformed the space into a warm, handsome interior with a marble sushi bar as the focal point. The walls are a pleasing combination of subtle burnt orange and burgundy decorated with understated pieces of modern art. There are four banquettes alongside and the tables of highly lacquered wood are complemented by black straight backed chairs. Soft jazz was playing in the background the night we ate there.

It was surprisingly busy for a weeknight, and my husband, Fred, was very pleased that his beer was served in a chilled glass. Being a wine connoisseur he noted that Asia Palace had an excellent wine list, very unusual for a smaller neighborhood Chinese restaurant.

There is a separate menu for the sushi selections and we began with very fresh California roll. We enjoyed their version of the standard sweet and sour chicken - made with fresh pineapple with sauce lighter than the thick goop often found. That was when we learned that Allan prepares all the sauces. The brown rice was surprisingly light and fluffy. The timing of the cooking of the lemongrass chicken was perfect, the morsels tender but we found the flavor lackluster or perhaps just too subtle for our palates. The best dish was the very flavorful al dente sautéed green beans and



From the Sushi Bar: Flying Dragon Roll. Inside: Tempura Shrimp & Crab Meat, Outside: Toppe w/white Tuna



Sushi Chef Xu Shi Sam

julienne beef - sensational! The complimentary fresh orange, traditionally segmented, was the perfect ending.

"We envisioned Asia Palace as a restaurant that features the harmony of Japanese and Chinese cuisines," explained Jie Wang. "Japanese food is healthful and very good to eat in warm weather. Chinese food tastes good, especially in cold weather, but it is too oily so we are offering more healthful versions of familiar dishes."

Allan, who is originally from Shanghai, lived in Japan for five years where he worked in the restaurant business. In addition to managing Asia Palace, he enjoys serving his customers and ensuring they are satisfied. He works with another Chinese chef and a Japanese sushi chef. Jie Wang comes in occasionally to help when she is not taking care of their three month old.

Lamorinda welcomes Allan Lin, Jie Wang and Asia Palace Restaurant!

#### ASIA PALACE RESTAURANT WITH SUSHI BAR:

1460 B Moraga Road, Moraga Center  
Telephone 925-376-0809  
Open Monday thru Friday:  
Lunch 11:00-2:30; Dinner 4:00 - 9:00  
Saturday: 12:00 - 9:00; Sunday Dinner: 4:00 - 9:00

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LAMORINDA's Restaurants			
• updated July 25, 2007 •			
<b>American</b>			
Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	
Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469	
Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938	
Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200	
Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127	
Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832	
The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234	
<b>BBQ</b>			
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	
<b>Burger Joint</b>			
Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	
<b>Café</b>			
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd #170, Laf	283-7170	
Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	
Geppetto's coffee	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	
<b>California Cuisine</b>			
Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422	
Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687	
<b>Caribbean</b>			
Calypso Bar & Grill	2 Theatre Sq, Suite 153, Ori	258-9686	
<b>Chinese</b>			
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740	
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	
Hsiang's Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	
<b>Coffee Shop</b>			
Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	
Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830	
Village Inn Cafe	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080	
<b>Continental</b>			
Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117	
Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330	
Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	
<b>Hawaiian Grill</b>			
Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	
<b>Indian</b>			
Asia Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700	
Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	
<b>Italian</b>			
Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869	
La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282	
La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191	
Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081	
Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300	
Mondello's	337 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-2533	
Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500	
Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700	
Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662	
<b>Japanese</b>			
Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	
Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020	
Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709	
Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606	
Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088	
Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872	
Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399	
<b>Jazz Dinner Club</b>			
Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807	
The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445	
<b>Mediterranean</b>			
Alekos	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290	
Oasis Cafe	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822	
Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225	
<b>Mexican</b>			
360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270	
<b>El Charro Mexican Dining</b>			
El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345	
La Cocina Mexicana	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639	
Mucho wraps	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987	
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203	
Celia's Restaurant	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740	
El Balazo	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288	
Maya	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700	
Taqueria El Balazo	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049	
Numero Uno Taqueria	3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700	
	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333	
<b>Pizza</b>			
Aladino's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363	
Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453	
Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515	
Round Table Pizza	"361 Rheem Blvd.", Mor	376-1411	
Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404	
Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200	
Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800	
<b>Sandwiches/Deli</b>			
Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400	
Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202	
Gourmet Bistro Cafe	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551	
Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766	
Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716	
Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990	
<b>Singaporean/Malaysian</b>			
Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653	
<b>South American</b>			
The Patio Tapas and restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885	
<b>Steak</b>			
Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981	
<b>Tea</b>			
Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226	
<b>Thai</b>			
Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883	
Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989	
Royal Siam	512 Center St, Mor	377-0420	
Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975	

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