

## The Cafe, The Legends Fort Canning

By PARVATHI NAYAR

AS a pocket of greenery right in the heart of town, Fort Canning is rather special. Great venue, too, to watch a show, go for a stroll, or have an away-from-city afternoon to connect with family and friends.

That is, till the hunger pangs strike and you contemplate — what you think — is a food desert. Not many people are aware that The Legends Fort Canning Park is a town club that welcomes the public to come in, be wined and dined.

The Cafe, especially, is great for the family. On the day we went, there were lots of kids about; their

amusement is taken into consideration with an indoor play area equipped with kid-size furniture and toys, an outdoor playground on the Terrace, and a kids menu.

The cafe has indoor and al fresco dining options, and a semi-open plan kitchen with a pasta station and a wood-fired oven. The buffet lunch is pretty good value at \$25 per head. A typical tasting range — the menu does change — would include a selection of appetisers from Thai grilled chicken salad to Japanese mini octopus; main course options from baked dory in tomato sauce to olive fried rice; and des-

serts like chocolate truffle cake and assorted nonya kueh.

However, the buffet is fairly generic, making the *a la carte* a lot more interesting. The menu mixes local with Italian. Our favourite was the delicious deep fried asian pizza (\$14), fusion at its best as a cross between Indian street fare and the Italian staple, loaded with chopped leaves and parma ham. The Penang char kway teow (\$9) and pad thai (\$11.50) also offered wholesome yet distinct flavours. A special mention must be made of the creme brulee (\$5.50) that comes loaded with fruit.

Other eating options at the club include the Lobby Lounge that does a tea time special from finger sandwiches to cakes (\$12 per person). Then there's contemporary Japanese at Hibiki, modern European at Poppi, and Cantonese cuisine and dim sum at the Legends Garden. If you feel like some pampering, there is the Essentia Spa. There are also meeting, event and wedding packages available.

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