

# Cafe dining, fit for Legends

Fort Canning is home to historical landmarks, artistic performances — and desserts to die for



The desserts, such as the chocolate truffle cake, are the stand-out dishes at The Cafe.

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Mention Fort Canning Park and many people think of live outdoor music festivals, late-night movie marathons, nocturnal ballet performances and wedding receptions — anything but an affordable haunt to quell hunger pangs.

But tucked within the stately walls and lush greenery stands The Legends Fort Canning Park — the town club that houses two fine-dining establishments.

The restaurants at The Legends are not reserved for club members, although reservations by phone are encouraged.

Hibiki is Sakae Sushi's

foray into Japanese fine-dining, while Poppi is a modern European eatery. A lesser known option is The Cafe, on the first level, which is ideal for those in search of a slightly more down-to-earth dining experience.

The Cafe's menu, relaunched last December, now includes both western and local favourites, such as Greek salad (\$9), deep-fried Asian pizza (\$14), spaghetti with fresh prawns, tomatoes, basil and white wine sauce (\$12.50), veal *ossobuco milanese* (\$15.50), Penang *char kuey teow* (\$9) and *pad thai* (\$11.50).

The restaurant is very family-oriented and has a partially-open kitchen with a

pasta station and a wood-fired oven that allows patrons to see how their pastas and pizzas dishes are prepared. Tiny tots can choose to have their meals in a kids' corner complete with miniature furniture, or at the table proper with their parents.

Kids can also head to the playground right outside the dining hall to have a bit of fun in the sun while their parents wine and dine at their leisure.

I started with the *minestrone* with pesto (\$5.50), a vegetable medley packed with diced zucchini, carrot cubes, tomatoes and onions.

The tomato-based soup had a tart clean taste and I liked the generous helping of vegetables. But, though it was