

Teochew it up!

BY caroline ARECELI

TC Noodle House makes me happy. In its fourth year of operation, this flourishing restaurant is a descendant of North Austin's beloved Tien Hong. Patriarch Thai Chau Tran quietly lends his expertise while son and owner Tan Tran delights patrons with his bold and delicious entrees. Tan's sister Victoria lends her time and effort to the House also, making this restaurant a well-run family business.

Initially started as a true noodle house offering food from both Vietnam and the Teochew province of China, the restaurant was intended to fill the lunchtime needs of North Austin's area residents. The restaurant, located in the My Tanh Chinatown shopping center quickly became a local favorite. Tan knows his clientele well, and could see a need for a heartier lunch and dinner menu. He developed a larger menu that is both

extensive and intricate. In addition to the original noodle offerings, a wide range of dishes are available for dinner, as well as a beer and wine list for customers to enjoy.

Tan has integrated favorite dishes from the original Tien Hong menu as well as unique offerings that include delectable rice cake omelettes (\$4.95 regular, \$5.95 large). This popular dish is a rare find in the Austin area, and the green onions and seasonings mixed into the eggs and cooked on top of rice cake make for an outstanding combination. They've also added live lobster and Dungeness crab (market price) to the menu, both cooked to order. If you think you've had lobster, you haven't had it until you've had TC Noodle's, trust me. Perfectly cooked finger lickin' garlicky goodness piled on a platter - it makes you wonder why you thought butter sauce was a sufficient lobster seasoning.

Vegetarians are always welcome, and with over 20 vegetarian selections to choose from, there should be a line forming as we speak. Pan seared noodles with mixed vegetables (\$8.05) is just one option. How about Young Snow Pea Leaves with Garlic Sauce (\$8.25) to whet your vegetarian appetite? Singapore Noodle (\$7.95) is a very popular and spicy choice, and make sure you try the Smoked Duck with sliced ginger and leeks - you'll be back for this fan favorite.

The large menu is filled with exciting and well-prepared options for any time of day. You can come into the restaurant and linger over your lunch or dinner in an atmosphere of familiarity and comfort. TC Noodle is family owned, after all, and they always make you feel right at home.

TC NOODLE HOUSE

10901 North Lamar Blvd, Ste B203

PHONE: 512.873.8235

TYPE: Vietnamese & Teochew Chinese

PARKING: Dedicated Lot

KID FRIENDLY: Yes

SUGGESTED DISH: Singapore Noodle,
Rice Omelette, Lobster

