

FOR A SWEET TASTE OF FRANCE

Visit **Le15** for macaroons and cupcakes that are pure indulgence, says **Rhea Dhanbhoora**



>> Choose from a delicious range of buttercream, chocolate and cream cheese frosted cupcakes

You don't need to travel to France to pop into one of its charming little patisseries anymore. All you need to do is sample some delectable treats from Le15 Patisserie to get that French feel. Set up by 24-year old Pooja Dhingra, the specialty patisserie hosts a colourful range of pastries that are dedicated to the French in their look and flavour.

The retail counter in Worli mainly has mini-versions of all their pastries. If you're in the mood for a wider range of choice, choosing to order it home is a better option. Le15 would never have existed if the founder, who studied at Le Cordon Bleu, Paris, actually studied law as planned. After sampling some delectable treats, we're glad she didn't.

The pink and black packaging is enchanting and the pastries inside don't disappoint. Macaroons (₹50) are her speciality. The bright array of colours is attention-grabbing and they melt in

your mouth as you bite into them. The passion fruit one is, as Pooja says, "an acquired taste that you could love or hate," but the rose is delicious, along with the bitter chocolate and the sticky caramel.

The mini-vanilla cupcakes (₹30) are delightfully fluffy and light enough to eat more than you should. The soft little cakes are moist without being too wet, the Buttercream icing superseding the cream cheese of the red velvet cupcakes with its balance of sweetness. And balance is something Le15 has plenty of. The 'Citron' tart (₹95) is tangy but not sour, with a perfectly set cold filling and a pastry thin enough to let your tongue savour the slight lemony tang.

Coffee lovers will be delighted with the mini 'Opera' (₹65). The taste of coffee is strong though, and can be overpowering for those with a more delicate palate. If you're looking for something different, try 'Paris Dreams' which is a melt in the

mouth macaroon, filled with litchis, and raspberries. The 'Mon Amour' (₹65) is chocolate rich without being too heavy or sickeningly sweet, much like most of the pastries and cakes.

The 'French Kiss' (₹65) could go down badly with people who are not fond of the sharp tang, but raspberry fans will enjoy the white mousse tart topped with the fruit that comes in from Mahableshwar.

The prices may be on the higher end, but the six month old patisserie is definitely the place to go when you want to treat yourself to some sweet delights.

Where: Retail Counter: Shama Hair and Skin boutique, Krishna Worli Sagar, JN Palkar Marg, Worli
Le15 Central Kichen: Shop 2, B wing, Rajgruha Co-Op, BM Marg, Elphinstone (West).
Contact: 9769286544

Wine... but don't dine

Balthazar offers thirty-five brands of beer says **Samreen Samad**



Balthazar is a new swanky restaurant divided in three parts — fine-dining, private dining and the bar area. It may look like a small, regular café from the outside and would probably go unnoticed but once you enter, you see how elegant and delightful the place really is.

Classy décor and comfortable seating make the place worth a visit. They also have a smoking lounge. Their VIP area, which has three tables for exclusive private dining, is a good concept which we don't get to see in our regular restaurants, this area doesn't even have any waiters to disturb you. If you wish to call a waiter, all you have to do is ring a wi-fi bell. Fancy indeed.

The cuisine served is mainly Chinese, but is nothing to write home about. Their main attraction would be the bar which has 18 types of beer such as Carlsberg, Kingfisher, Heineken, Stella and Corona and by the end of the month will serve 35 brands from all over the globe. They have at least 30 different wines from across the world.

All in all, a place to go to only for its ambience and extensive alcohol menu, the food didn't score that well with us.

Where: Next To SNTD College, Santacruz
Contact: 9930999930
Meal for two: ₹2,000

<< TOP 5: VALUE FOR MONEY MEALS

We ask our readers' to recommend places where you can get great value for money meals

BAGHDIDI'S



"It's perfect if you're broke and want some good kebabs, or their famous chicken fry, which interestingly enough is like a different version of KFC. You can't beat roti's that size for just ₹10."

Where: Off Colaba Causeway, Colaba

— Ryan Vaz

NICE CORNER



"Nice Corner is a little stall that serves kebabs and rolls amongst other things. It has the best kebabs and a decent plate would cost you around ₹30-40. It's perfect for college going kids."

Where: SV Road, near St.Teresa's, Santa Cruz (W)

— Rahul Sawan

MCDONALD'S



"McDonald's of course! The food is affordable, and delicious. They have so many outlets around the city, and it's all the more appealing to me because there's an outlet right across from my house. Also, the breakfast is delicious."

Where: Available all over Mumbai

— Binaifer Patel

MIA CUCINA



"I'd definitely go to Mia Cucina. The meals there are value for money. Not only is the food spectacular, the service is good and it's close to where I live. Unlike most places it's also very consistent with the quality of food."

Where: Near Gold's Gym, Pali Naka, Bandra (W)

— Parizad Mistry