

« TRIED & TESTED: FOOD REVIEW

AN ILLUMINATED AFFAIR

Does the quirky name hold significance, or is it just a gimmick? Khevna Pandit visits Lighthouse Café in Worli to find out what's on their menu

There's something about the name that has always intrigued me — so when I heard there was a new outlet in South Bombay, I had no reason not to go check it out. An overwhelming sense of curiosity led me to finally clear my schedule and head on over; and, if like me, you're visiting during late evening, there's no way that you'll miss the massive illuminated board that spells out the name. My dining companion and I made our way into the restaurant, bypassing the gorgeous al fresco seating lined with wooden tables and chairs. We soon found ourselves gawking at the bright interiors and friendly yellow walls — but, what will really catch your eye is the noticeably long bar counter with test-tube like glasses arranged on the shelves.

The outlet in Khar is known for its extensive bar menu, and the one in Worli doesn't disappoint either, even though they have been focusing more on the food at this outlet. We were served a round of drinks to start with — the LED Sangria (₹165), Austrian Beach (₹350) and Berry Surprise (₹165) for mocktails, and Golden Glory (₹425), Bhagira (₹425) and AK Special (₹275) as cocktails. While the Berry Surprise turned out to be a delightful fruity blend, and an instant favourite, the Austrian Beach didn't come off as expected. My dining companion, on the other hand, enjoyed the tall, refreshing AK Special, which is a creative invention of one of the owners of the restaurant. For our meal, we started off with Tart Bhaaji (₹280), Cheese & Gherkin Balls (₹250) and Veg Enchiladas (₹280) as vegetarian starters, and Jerk Chicken (₹350) and Lamb Kebabs (₹420) as non-vegetarian starters. Every dish was accompanied by a serving of a dip that somehow stood out more than the appetisers themselves. The Veg Enchiladas were almost unrecognisable because of their strange presentation and were slightly off the mark (and very chewy), but the Cheese Gherkin Balls made up for this by having just the right amount of cheesiness that you need to make you feel better! For the non-vegetarian platter, my dining companion was impressed with the Lamb Kebabs more than the Jerk Chicken, which turned out to be slightly dry. While the Tart Bhaaji was an innovative concept, with a portion of Pav Bhaaji in a tart, it was rather



» Lighthouse Café's inviting interiors and good food will make you want to pay them another visit

» Lighthouse Café has an interesting mix of drinks and food dishes on the menu



» We loved the al fresco area with wooden tables and chairs

crumbly and too soft to be enjoyed without making a mess!

Proceeding to the main course, we were recommended the Indie Style Chicago Pizza, made with roasted vegetables, paneer, jalapenos, olives, tomato sauce and Mozzarella Cheese (₹695). A pre-warning to anyone who wants to dive into this deep-dish: the pizza comes with a two-inch thick crust and so, those who cannot finish a thin-crust pizza should lay off! The Indie Style Chicago Pizza could either leave you very happy or very full. But, it's a dream dish for cheese lovers and is loaded with gooey cheese that oozes out of each bite. However, it could be too rich for some. We also tried two of their signature breakfast dishes — Anda Gadbad (₹210), which is an omelette stuffed with boiled egg and kheema, topped with spicy gravy, and a portion of Spinach and Mushroom Crepes (₹325), which were French crepes stuffed with spinach and mushroom, topped with four cheese sauces and thyme. The Anda Gadbad was a delicious omelette, but the crepes were slightly bland.

We ended our culinary journey with the Eggless Chocolate Hazelnut Mousse (₹320), which was a portion of gooey chocolate along with honey glazed melon thyme and hazelnut, which we definitely couldn't get enough of! The smoothness of the rich chocolate blended well with the oatmeal cookie base. All in all, Lighthouse Café took us on an incredible food journey, with a variety of flavours.

Unfortunately, we couldn't try everything that the extensive menu had to offer, but everything from the drinks to the choice of music and of course, the lights, has helped us plan another visit in the future. For those who love the food and drink but aren't particularly fond of the area or ambiance at their Khar outlet, this is worth heading over to for a change of scene, with the same great menu.

Where 9 Ground Floor, Sunville Banquets, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Siddharth Nagar, Worli
Meal for two ₹1,200
Alcohol served Yes, a pint of beer costs ₹250
Contact 30151236

« TRIED & TESTED: SPA REVIEW

SEEING STARS

No, really — but only when you look up in between your treatment. Rhea Dhanbhora takes a beauty break at Myrah Spa and comes away glowing

Respite from the perennial city heat at a spa that's quietly nestled behind a building (with no signs outside — so make sure you've got the right one!) — the perfect weekday evening was right around the corner as I drove up to Myrah Spa's new SOBO setting.

If you're familiar with its Juhu dwellings, you won't be surprised that their South Mumbai entrant has no signs outside to hint at its existence. Of course, since the tiny spa has barely enough room to accommodate walk-ins, this may not be such a bad idea. Once you do walk towards the entrance, the old-school wooden shutters and flower-lined pathway welcome you into a predictably swanky space, complete with the illuminated signboard outside the door that makes up for the lack of one on the street corner.

ALL ABOUT THE AURA

Delicate wisps of lemongrass float through the air inside, as I stepped over the marble-tiled reception and over a pretty red and brown rug into the waiting area, which is a small and slightly cramped space, only big enough for around three to four people at the most. I was drawn to the black and white patterned tiles lining the walls in the space, which has been designed and conceptualised by Nisha Javeri herself (with a little help from famed architect Fabio Correa, of course).

Everything from the wooden bark tables to the (extremely comfortable) burnt orange sun loungers could either impress or intimidate — depending on your mood. It's all very modern, eclectic, very luxurious and very stylish, and while this could seem a bit pretentious to some, it's all tastefully done up.

INNER SECRETS

A tiny passageway (everything in this new spa is small and compact, in stark contrast with the spacious home it has in Juhu) leads you to five massage rooms and a couple's treatment room, with a moveable partition. The couple's room is as expected of Myrah, with a Jacuzzi, mood lighting — you name it. All the rooms have waterfall showers (try getting out of the comfort of these in under

ON MY WISHLIST

- More of the chocolate! That one, tiny piece you're given? Not nearly enough for the after-spa munchies.
- A longer pre-spa foot soak. This is something that very few spas get right, but when they do, it paves the way for some of the most relaxing treatments.
- A signboard outside — a small one, pretty please — or some sort of secret code to help those who've already been there find their way back to the corner building on Marine Drive.
- An option to pick your own oil; some of us have preferences.

five minutes, I dare you!) and vaulted ceilings that help you look up at what seems like an inky black carpet of stars during your treatment.

TREAT US RIGHT

Of course, not much about the treatments at Myrah changes. They still have all my favourites, and the products by Vagheggi remain a constant as well. Like at all spas, you have to fill in a form and pick a treatment before you're led to your room, which at Myrah is small, but cosy, with a safe for your valuables included and a fluffy white robe to cosy up in as you dip your feet into the rose water for a foot wash.

Browsing through a menu of signature Myrah treatments, I settled in for the Silken Body Sheen (₹6,950 for 90 minutes), one of the only treatments (similar at the very least) I have tried without much success at spas across the city through the years. It was fully loaded with a bronze and caviar body sheen and a relaxing treatment (complete with a body rub and a very satisfying massage) that included an exfoliation, which did exactly what it was supposed to. My skin was soft, silky and smooth for at least a week after. You will have to go home with the oil still on your skin though, so keep that in mind before planning your social calendar after your treatment!



The extremely soothing ambiance at Myrah Spa will leave you dazzled and relaxed

The staff here is warmer and friendlier than at their Juhu outlet, and although my masseuse was not particularly talkative, she was perfectly professional, applied just the right pressure and followed my instructions for more neck and shoulder attention.

After the soothing treatment, the most delicious chocolate and after-treatment tea and the excellent service, my only grouse for the evening was having to wait fifteen minutes to get a cab on the busy street — nothing you could fault the spa for, of course.

Myrah is small, and although I like my spas large and airy, it doesn't let the space crunch hamper service or treatment, so you won't even notice the slightly cramped spaces after a bit. Don't skip a visit here to get over a chaotic weekday or indulge on a relaxing weekend — but do make sure you book an appointment as they may not be able to accommodate you as a walk-in.

Where Meghdoot Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Ground Floor, 95-B, Netaji Subhash Chandra Road, Marine Drive
Contact 9820904497

VISIT FOR

- The delicious after-treatment chocolate — no, really, it's the most decadent dark chocolate.
- Soothing therapies — expert hands will work their magic till all your aches and pains have been relieved. I should know, I had several.
- The soothing herbal tea afterwards that for once, doesn't taste like it's been hurriedly thrown in from a teabag brew.
- The waterfall showers. I skipped the steam, but if you have the time, don't because you will want to spend more time on the fold-up wooden benches in the bath.



« CHECK IT OUT: YOUBE'S RANGE OF MEN'S JEWELLERY

ACCESSORISE LIKE A MAN

Who says there aren't enough options when it comes to jewellery for men? Yoube launches its exclusive men's line of sparkling diamonds this season. The exquisite collection features a range of scintillating diamond, wedding, signet, solitaire and multi-stone rings, tie clips, lapel pins, cuff links and bracelets. There is also a different line for all those who are religious, with swastika rings, the Ganesha pendant and the Trishul pendant. "It's nice to see people moving away from just the watch and simple, banded ring. When you buy men's jewellery, remember not only to look for minimalistic bling but also for a unique design that is classy, not gaudy," says Aakash Barmecha, CEO and Jewellery Designer for Yoube Jewellery. Whether it is for a gift, or for yourself, there is a reason to be heading towards Yoube for a quick look!

Where Yoube Jewellery, 2nd Floor, Krishna House, Raghuvanshi Mills Compound, Lower Parel
When Ongoing, 10am to 8pm
Contact 61201900



« BRAND TO WATCH FOR: INDIABOULEVARD GET INDIAN FASHION WORLDWIDE

Have you noticed the allure of traditional Indian clothing? But, what if you're looking for something very specific — something that your corner store won't give you because of its limited styles and lack of customisation? That's where IndiaBoulevard comes in. The online marketplace connects people, (wherever they are in the world), with custom-made, ethnic outfits. The brand's USP is its limitless options and

bespoke customisation, and was born when founder Akta Adani was looking for the perfect bridal gown for her wedding. But, IndiaBoulevard caters to much more than just wedding outfits. You can pick lehengas, kurtas, anarkalis and sarees, and guys have a choice too with the made-to-measure clothing available with the website and service. **Where** www.indiaboulevard.com

« SUMMER ACTIVITY: IMAGICA SNOW PARK A SNOW PARK FOR THE SUMMER!

Here's some great news for anyone looking to beat the heat! With the summer sun doing its worst, Imagica has a new attraction to help you cool down. The park's newest attraction, Imagica Snow Park, happens to be India's largest snow theme park and is built over an area of 30,000 square feet with 100% natural snow! The snow park, which is a joint venture with Acme Entertainment, even boasts of real snowfall and sub-zero temperatures as well as a 50-foot-tall snow dome. You can also look forward to spending your time with leisurely activities such as snow hiking and snow

rafting, and there's a snow dance floor and a chance to pose for pictures in the snow castle. Live an Eskimo's life or interact with a real Eskimo in the Igloo. There are three Snow Cafés around the park, all of which will be serving delicious tea, coffee, hot chocolate and snacks.

Where 30/31, Sangdevadi, Pali-Khopoli Road, Off Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Tal-Khalapur, District Raigad, Khopoli
When Ongoing
Contact 42130405