

Marrickville

Banh Cuon Ba Oanh

\$

NORTHERN VIETNAMESE

Marrickville icon #1. This place specialises in steamed rice rolls. Its more of a brekkie/lunch place. I'm not too well versed in vietnamese food but we really enjoyed it and tasted healthy. The chicken congee was a particular highlight. Always busy though, prepare to queue. Not open for dinner.

VN Street Foods

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VIETNAMESE

Marrickville icon #2. This place is ALWAYS busy. Get the Bun Cha (Grilled pork with vermicelli).

Kreamu

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GELATO

Newly opened gelato place with interesting asian inspired flavours.

Hawkes Brewery

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BREWERY/ CHINESE

The Lucky Prawn restaurant is surprisingly pretty good. Obvs more expensive than an 'authentic' chinese restaurant but my fave here is the crab omlette - a dish from the 80s/90s you can't find in most places now.

Wharf Street Kitchen

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Lox in a box

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BAGELS/LOX

LazyBones

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LIVE MUSIC & DRINKS

Not a restaurant but great venue for live music at night. Small, intimate vibe.

Newtown/Enmore

Cafe Paci

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MODERN AUSTRALIAN

Cool trendy vibe, very intimate. We had ceviche, ravioli, and some sort of smoked cabbage, but everything was delicious and interesting..

Colombo Social

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SRI LANKAN

Very popular - bookings essential. We've only been once but had a great experience. Service was impeccable. Curries and Sambols were really good. Would go with a group of at least 4 to try all the things! Get the hoppers if you haven't tried - it's a bowl shaped pancake - i guess think of it like a roti? The restaurant also helps asylum seekers in Australia, as most of the staff there are refugees.

Westwood Pizza

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PIZZA

Super popular, hole in the wall pizza place. Had 3 hour queues when they first opened in 2021. Famous for Hot Honey pizza but everything we had was good.

Hakiki

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GELATO

Turkish gelato. Really smooth and dense style gelato, one of my top 3 faves in Syd.

Mapo

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GELATO

Light gelato with some pretty interesting (often asian inspired) flavours. Flavours rotate around/seasonal. Have had things like Rice Tea flavour or roasted sesame. Classic pistachio also good. Hakiki is better tho.

Emma's Snack Bar

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LEBANESE

Cosy Lebanese place with a huge menu. Great for groups - particularly love the veggie menu. All the hummus, baba ganoush, garlic dip were excellent

Darling Square/Chinatown/CBD

Hello Auntie

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VIETNAMESE

I love this place. And Sarah Tiong from Masterchef was here too so must be good! Banh Xeo is my fave here - its a share dish. The Goi cuon is also good but you probably need four people to share with! There's one in Marrickville too. It's pretty fancy as far as vietnamese places go.

HakataMon Ramen

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JAPANESE RAMEN

Solid ramen option in CBD. Can't go wrong with the classic white tonkatsu.

Koji

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KOREAN BBQ

It's a pretty pricey but delicious korean BBQ place. There's a lot of shitty ones out there, but this one is premium.

Danjee

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KOREAN/BBQ

They have a comprehensive menu, but I found the quality of sashimi to be really good here (random, for a korean place I know). BBQ meat quality also good, more of a casual vibe.

Dolar Shop Hot Pot

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CHINESE HOTPOT

Premium end of chinese hot pot. So premium you get your own individual hot pot instead of sharing it like normal hotpots. Im usually skeptical of hotpots for hygiene reasons but this place is very clean and the ingredients premium - you pay for it though! But if you want a good hotpot experience this is the place to go.

Ho Jiak

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MALAYSIAN

There is a lot of hype for this place, the owners are mates of Dan Hong's. I prefer Malacca or Temasek over this but its still good. Think they go overboard on seasoning. Pricier than the other options but still solid choice. They also work with some fancy ingredients like caviar and

truffle when in season, so bit of a fancy twist on malaysian. Always busy so you gotta book or prepare to queue.

The Eight

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CHINESE YUM CHA

Mixed feelings on this one, sometimes hit or miss. Often terrible service, but good variety and quality of yum cha. Expect queues.

Marigold

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CHINESE YUM CHA

Solid yum cha. Service is friendly but venue looks a little run down. Good variety and quality.

Two Peck

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FRIED CHICKEN

Taiwanese fried chicken. IT IS VERY GOOD - MUST TRY. Looks like a random-as hole in the wall place, and an automated voice will call your number, but the fried chicken wings here is probably my fave in sydney. Comes in different flavours but they all taste good. Just a nice lil snack, there isnt even any seating. The spicy is very spicy so get mild-medium.

Daruma

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JAPANESE

Fun, relaxed vibe. Big menu, feels like a fun place for groups of friends and drinking. Very authentic vibe. Food isnt outstanding but good.

Chat thai

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THAI

Although it's a chain, the one in haymarket is far better than any of the other ones. Huge, comprehensive menu everything has been good when I've been. Particular highlight is after 9pm they sometimes do Pa Thong Go - deepfried donut balls with a Pandan dipping sauce. Far better than the overrated custard puffs.

Home Thai

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THAI

Similar to Chat Thai but flavours slightly more tailored to local clientele so tend to be extra spicy.

Tawandang

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THAI

This place has one outstanding dish and everything else is meh. Skip the curries. Skip the pad thai. If you want a powerful Tom Yum Goong this is my fave. Loaded with spices, very gingery and lemongrassy I actually get this when I feel like I'm getting sick because it's medicinal. They generally do good soups and fish and grilled pork neck good too. But curries are shite.

Sushi E

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JAPANESE SUSHI/SASHIMI

Dan Hong's Sushi restaurant, part of merivale group. Really good quality seafood but expenny. Good for a special occasion.

Mr Wong

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CHINESE

Dan Hong's chinese restaurant. Expensive for Chinese food but the quality is really good if you want the full five star experience. And for lunch they have some really fancy dumplings you'd only be able to get here like lobster and scallop dumplings, or king prawn and bamboo shoot.

Redfern

Rara ramen

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JAPANESE RAMEN

Great ramen, particularly for their milky bone broth. Usually a queue so be prepared to wait.

RaRa Chan

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JAPANESE RAMEN/TSUKEMEN

RaRa recently opened RaRa Chan in Eveleigh. They do a Tsukemen, a dipping ramen, using a hot stone to heat the broth. Pretty tasty, pretty heavy, very umami. More intensity in flavour than RaRa Redfern which I think of as a 'clearer' broth.

Chippendale/Ultimo

Kindred

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ITALIAN.

Classic homestyle pastas. Probably my fave pasta place that comes at a reasonable price. Rigatoni and the Fusilli are our go-tos. Tiramisu is good, we often just get it for take out. Entrees are average. Cosy, nice one for date night. Bookings essential.

Malacca Straits

\$ - \$\$

MALAYSIAN.

One of my top two malaysian places. Their classics like Laksa and Har Mee and curry chicken, nasi lemak are really good. They also do a BYO mud-crab where they'll cook it for you in 3 different options for \$40 - Dry Curry, Singapore Chilli, or 'Kam Heung' which is a chinese spicy style. My fave is the dry curry but they're all pretty good. You need to buy a fresh live mudcrab from the fishmarket which sets you back around \$70-80 depending on the weight and season. 'Golden sand' prawn also good. Its BYO, prob best to book. Beware the grumpy service at times.

Kopitiam

\$-\$\$

MALAYSIAN

From the outside this place looks so shit and dodgy. But the food is actually really good and feels really home-made. The curries and hainan chicken rice are my faves, and they have a thing called 'specialty tofu' which is rare to find in Sydney - its silken tofu with a deep fried crust. Check hours, they're a bit random.

La Herradura

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COLUMBIAN

Cute, tiny cafe always full of South American customers so you know it's legit. Food isn't super outstanding, but there's not that many columbian food places so I think its not bad. We're into the Caldo De Costilla here which is a beef rib soup with potatoes. Good for winter. Coffees pretty average, would avoid.

Pymont

Umami-Dojo Ramen

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JAPANESE RAMEN

This recently opened in 2021 and has quickly become a favourite for Pymont locals in that it seems to be always packed! They only open for dinner for now. The menu is limited (in a good way) in that they specialise in fish-based broth. They are one of those places who do one thing, but do it well. Would recommend booking.

Parramatta

Temasek

\$ - \$\$

MALAYSIAN

1st equal fave malaysian place in Sydney - great laksa and hainan chicken rice.

Harris Park

Chatkazz

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INDIAN VEGETARIAN

An Uber driver recommended this to me. Everything was delicious. The dish he recommended which we were skeptical about was the Club Sandwich. It was memorable and the reason it's on this list. The family dosa is literally the length of a table. Comical. The curries and puris also great.

Cabramatta

Tan Viet

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VIETNAMESE

Casual atmosphere. The specialty is the crispy skin chicken. Definitely get that on dry noodle, soup noodle or tomato rice. The herbal duck is interesting too but if it wasn't clear, the crispy skin chicken. Not a place for pho, you can get those anywhere.

Pho Tau Bay

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VIETNAMESE

Casual. Busy. Great pho.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/food/article/2022/07/01/broth-hero-40-year-old-pho-restaurant>

Chatswood

Mr. Fat Duck Peking duck

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CHINESE PEKING DUCK

I've only had one good peking duck experience in Sydney and it's here. This. is. It.
If you crave specifically peking duck, this is the place.

Mama Mulan

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MODERN CHINESE

Interesting takes on chinese food with a modern twist. Fancy decor/vibe and definitely more upmarket than your usual chinese place.

Sun Kee

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HONG KONG STYLE NOODLES (FOODCOURT)

HK style noodle here is as legitimate as ive ever come across in Sydney.. The shrimp oil dry noodle is the thing to get and wonton noodles

Crow's Nest

Yurippi

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JAPANESE YAKITORI

Amazing little japanese bbq skewers place.

Sashimi Shinsengumi

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JAPANESE SASHIMI

Amazing quality sashimi at a really good price considering the level of quality. They used to be Omakase which would book out in an instant and they are old school you had to call a phone number, between x and x time. But they solely do takeaway now, no dine in.

Neutral Bay

Tobikiri

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SUSHI/SASHIMI

One of the best sashimi places ive been to in Sydney. Really authentic vibe (to the point im pretty sure theres a secret menu for japanese speakers). Had a great Uni (sea urchin) experience.

Jugemu Shimbashi

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SOBA

This place specialises in soba. Also feels really authentic. Simple, tasty and light.

Hurstville

Imperial Dynasty

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YUM CHA

The 3.4 google review doesn't do it justice in my opinion. Its a great yum cha with a much more relaxed and spacious vibe, and can get stuff you cant get elsewhere. No pushy trolley ladies. The congee is good.

Wolli Creek

Yan Restaurant

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ASIAN SMOKEHOUSE

Unique take on chinese that ive never had anywhere else. Olive rice is a game changer. The beef, lamb, pork, baos, grilled corn - everything's been a hit.