



## Aussie's Best

By Lionel Kong



**Tastes great, value for money** – Editor's choice

One of the best kept secrets for great casual Aussie styled dining in Singapore is about to be let into the open. For months, many of the expatriate Aussies living in Singapore have been heading down to Mad Jack Cafe at Bukit Timah for a little taste of home. Serving true Aussie style Fish & Chips, burgers and steaks, the casual air of the cafe and affordable prices hide the fact that it serves one of the best fish & chips in Singapore.

The cafe came about after owner Jack Chin decided to open an outlet that served good food at an affordable price, and his chief concern was to serve food that was as authentic as possible. The star attraction at the cafe is undoubtedly the fish & chips, made with fresh chunky whole fish fillet and coated in traditional Aussie style batter, which is rarely found in local eateries. "Many of the restaurants and cafes in Singapore use bread crumbs for the batter, which is what many of us are accustomed to eating locally. But it can dry out the fish as bread crumbs

tend to absorb a lot of oil. The traditional batter used in fish & chips is smoother, and when fried, actually forms a seal to lock in the flavour and moisture of the fish," explains Jack.

Jack himself is an Australian Permanent Resident, and tried as many restaurants and recipes in Australia as he could before coming up with a recipe that he felt was an optimal blend of all the best. He revealed that when the cafe first started, they served the fish & chips on traditional paper wrapping, but soon switched to plates for dine in customers based on feedback from the diners. Takeaway orders are still wrapped in brown paper, exactly like the way it is done in Australia. The dish is served with broccoli salad, and spicy chips coated in a light layer of spices. The traditional Aussie battered fish tastes very different from the local fish & chips, with the chief difference being that the fish meat is incredibly moist and juicy. At only \$6.90 for a dish that tastes like it costs so much more, the value is quite amazing. **H**

Another favourite at the cafe is their lamb. Cooked with all fresh ingredients and specially airflow Australian lamb, the meat is moist, tender and very juicy. It is served with a generous helping of mashed potatoes and salad. Jack makes it a point to serve only fresh food at the table.

A good example is the beef and chicken burgers, which are cooked with home-made patties from fresh beef and chicken. This is apparent from the very first flavour filled bite, when you notice that the burgers taste nothing like the regular dry and flat fare found at a fast food joint.

Best of all, the prices are very competitive, as the goal of Mad Jack Cafe is to keep things casual, cozy, and affordable. Jack explained that this was no fine dining restaurant, but a comfortable diner for those that truly appreciate great Aussie styled fare.



### Customer comments

"They serve authentic Aussie food," said a pastor from nearby Trinity Church. Another regular, Elaine added that Mad Jack Cafe serves great food with great service. Her friend May loves the ambience and the affordable prices too. "Our cakes are also baked here," Jack proudly reveals. "A hot favourite is the Chocolate Delight, which we serve with or without a scoop of Movenpick ice-cream." Many television and radio personalities have been known to drop by the place after work to pick up a cake or two to bring home with them too! The Chocolate Delight was truly what was promised. A nice, fluffy and chocolaty interior was covered by a layer of fudge, and what was most appealing about the cake was that it was not heavy; it retained a light texture, but the taste was all there, not too creamy, not too rich, but definitely dark chocolate to the core! This was well and truly something for chocoholics everywhere.

The cafe sees a clientele of mostly young families with children, and a room on the second level has been specially converted into a children's playground. A secure, comfortable and air conditioned room, it provides a safe place for toddlers to play in when their attention span at the dinner table has reached its limit! Company functions and birthday dinners can also be organized on the premises, and usually a reservation is needed for large numbers so that seating can be arranged. **H**

**Mad Jack Cafe** is open from 7 am for breakfast to 11 pm, seven days a week. They are located at 6, Duke's Road, in between Coronation Plaza and the Bukit Timah/Adam Road junction. Tel: 6462 4300, 6289 1506



Present this coupon to enjoy

# 10% off

Terms and Conditions:  
Offer is not valid with other promotions, discounts, offers, privileges or vouchers. Discount is deducted from the bill (not inclusive of beverages and desserts)  
Offer is valid till 15th March 2006

