

DIM SUM

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romantic lunch, then traditional dim sum may not be your best choice. At traditional dim sum, there's no ordering. Instead, choices are made from a wide assortment of dishes that waitstaff serve from carts. Dim sum is best enjoyed with a large group; otherwise you may fill up on a few items and miss the opportunity to sample many dishes.

Dim sum service has an order. Lighter, steamed dishes should be chosen first. These are followed by exotic items, such as chicken feet, which may not appeal to a strictly "western" palate. If so, let that cart roll on by and wait for the baked, pan-fried or deep-fried dishes to roll out next. Dessert carts include items such as custard tarts and flavored puddings. All of which can be consumed with copious amounts of green tea.

According to Shangri-La owner Nancy Chan, dim sum at her restaurant features a wide array of classic small dishes prepared by Chef Tim Chang. Small dishes include such specialties as Shui Mai (pork dumplings), Beef Shui Mai, Steamed Spare ribs with Black Bean Sauce, Stuffed Green Pepper, Stuffed Egg Plant, Sesame Ball, Baked BBQ Pork Buns and Steamed 9-grain Paste Buns. Included among medium-size items are Shrimp Kau, Pan-Fried or Steamed Dumplings, Shrimp or Beef in Rice Rolls and Bacon Rolls. Large items such as Shrimp Dumpling with Soup, Deep-Fried Shrimp Balls or Shrimp and Scallop Kau are the priciest dishes.

Along with traditional dim sum, special dishes served on trays are available on weekends only. These range in price from

RESTAURANTS SERVING AUTHENTIC DIM SUM:

■ **Shangri-La**,
6407 Orchard Lake Road
(at Maple Road inside
the Orchard Mall), West
Bloomfield (248) 626-8585

When: 11a.m.-3p.m.
Monday - Friday; 10a.m.-
3p.m. Saturday and Sunday

■ **Wah Court**,
1689 University Ave. West,
Windsor, Ontario, CAN
(519) 256-4755 and 2037
Wyandotte West, Windsor,
Ontario, CAN (519) 254-1388.

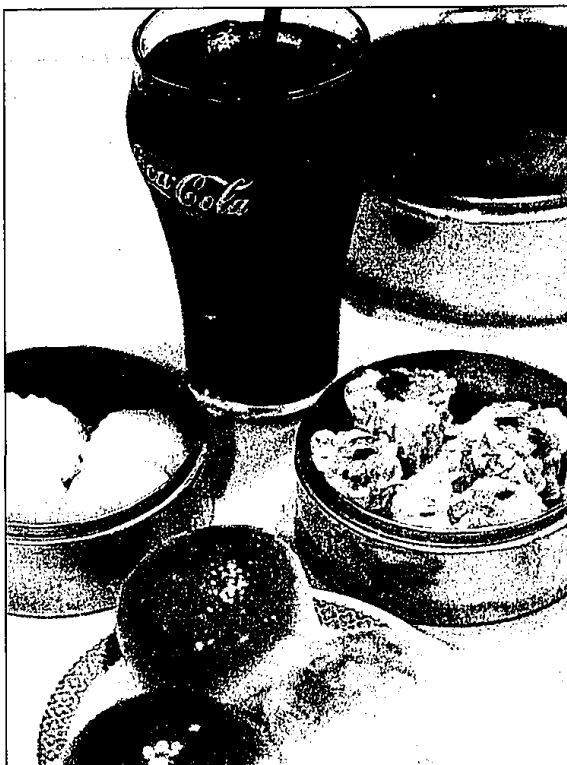
When: 11a.m.-4p.m.
Monday-Friday;
10a.m.-4p.m. Saturday,
Sunday and holidays

Cost: \$2.25 to \$2.95 per
plate depending on size.

\$5 to \$6. Items, except for
weekend specials, are similar at
both Wah Court locations, where
you gain the benefit of a favor-
able Canadian exchange rate.

The level of culinary art
experienced at dim sum is
amazing. And it's an ideal way
to experience a large variety of
tastes and flavors without leav-
ing with an overly full feeling.

Eleanor Heald is a Troy resident who
writes about restaurants, food, wine
and spirits for the Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers. To leave her a voice mail
message, dial (734) 953-2047 on a
touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864H.



Selections off the Dim Sum cart are Baked Pork Bun, bottom center, Shrimp Kau, left, Shui Mai, right, and Sticky Rice Wrapped, back.

City Bites

A "Guide to America's Best Restaurants" insert in the October 2002 Gourmet magazine cites some metro-Detroit restaurants along with others from 21 cities across the U.S.

Tribute in Farmington Hills is headlined as best for business. A handsome interior color photo marks it as an area best.

Agave in Detroit is the best buzz eatery.

Emily's in Northville was dubbed a personal favorite.

Area neighbor-hood gems include Five Lakes Grill in Milford, Giovanni's in Detroit, Luigi's "The Original" in Harrison Township and Vintage Bistro in Grosse Pointe Farms.

It's good to know we're being watched!

- Eleanor Heald

LADIES

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novelty songs, swing and big band music.

"What's special about Duke Ellington's music is the way it conveys emotion. He speaks the unspeakable through his music. It conveys real longing and desire and is full of the elements of what love is all about. It's the power of it - I've Got It Bad and That Ain't Good, In a Sentimental Mood. Duke was not only an innovator he was a master of jazz. Mercer Ellington wanted to showcase the vast talents of his father who primarily played with the same musicians throughout his career. Mercer took over the band after he died and used many of them to bring the review to Broadway by 1981. The irony was Duke Ellington couldn't break into the musical and this show was a huge hit and remains a bigger hit than he ever had in his lifetime."

The Duke didn't have to take Broadway by storm. He was already making it everywhere else. Marcus Belgrave remembers his father playing Ellington in their Detroit home. Belgrave's been playing the music for at least three decades, including an eight-year stint with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis in New York City. His only regret is turning down the opportunity to go on the road with Ellington. Belgrave had just returned from playing 5-years of one-nighters with Ray Charles.

"This is really a tremendous honor to be involved with Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies* for two reasons - the music and the talent coming out of Detroit. It's Broadway quality," said Belgrave. "Duke's music is so universal. He never called his music jazz. It touches all genres of music, people, across and time. Righttime? He did that too. He wrote a lot of music around the train. I'm surprised at some of the things Duke has done."

"*Sophisticated Ladies* showcases 32 of his songs and was on Broadway with Gregory Hines for more than four years. I'm excited just to be involved."

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

SOPHISTICATED LADIES

What: Plowshares Theatre Company presents the Tony award-winning musical review spotlighting the music of Duke Ellington

When: Thursday, Oct. 24 to Sunday, Nov. 3. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 6 p.m. Sunday, no 3 p.m. show Saturday, Oct. 26

Where: Musical Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit

Tickets: \$27-\$45. Call (313) 872-0729

See art, tour historic house, view the stars at Cranbrook on Fridays

Make your Friday night destination Cranbrook for historic tours, views of the stars, cutting-edge contemporary art and mind-bending science.

Beginning Friday, Oct. 25, Cranbrook will launch Fabulous Fourth Friday Nights to show visitors the many different experiences available at the campus' public venues, which include Cranbrook Institute of Science, Art Museum and Cranbrook House.

A visit to Cranbrook Art Museum offers exhibits that erase the boundaries between art and life from the Pop era, a showcase of original works by Spanish architect Rafael Moneo, and works from eleven Cranbrook Academy of Art alumni inspired by the city of Brooklyn.

A fiery performance of flamenco and

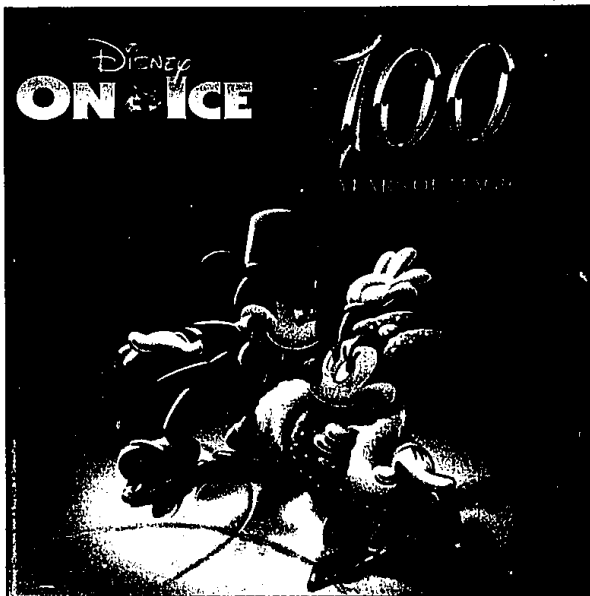
other Spanish dances accompanied by live music is the first of the Museum's exciting programs rotating each fourth Friday. *Dances of Spain: Maria Del Carmen Grupo Espana Dance Company* takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

A short walk away, The Institute of Science offers opportunities to journey to the planets and stars. Visitors can enjoy eclectic music during a dazzling laser show at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and view the rings of Saturn and other wonders of the night through the observatory telescope. Through Jan. 5, 2003, the museum's temporary exhibit, *Masters of the Ocean Realm: Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises*, explores the world of underwater mammals through life-size models and hands-on activities. Visitors to Cranbrook House will be

able to step back in time and see Detroit's oldest manor home during tours at 6 and 7 p.m. Designed by Albert Kahn and completed in 1908, the English Arts and Crafts-style manor home of Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Booth features antique furniture, woodcarvings, tapestries and examples of fine and decorative art.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with extended hours every Friday until 10 p.m. Cranbrook Art Museum is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday with extended hours until 9 p.m. on the Fourth Friday of the month.

For more information on Fabulous Fourth Friday Nights at Cranbrook, call (877) 462-7262 or visit www.cranbrook.edu



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