

Lotus of Siam
953 East Sahara Avenue #5
Las Vegas, NV
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www.saipinchutima.com

Reviewed by David Peshkin

While Las Vegas may be a mecca for many sins, including gluttony, it is unlikely that many people associate it with fine Thai food. Nonetheless, in a casual conversation with my friend Jim, a Manhattanite who perhaps can be forgiven for misidentifying fine dining experiences west of, say, the Hudson, I mentioned that I was going to Las Vegas for a conference. He immediately came back with a recommendation to eat at the Lotus of Siam, which he quoted reviewers referring to alternatively as the "best Thai food in Las Vegas" the "best restaurant in Las Vegas, or "the best Thai food in America!" I don't know about all that, but I've since surfed the web and seen the reviews myself. Heady stuff. It almost makes me wish I had eaten twice as much. But there were only three of us, including some spice-adverse diners, and we did not go overboard.

The big treat was the stuffed chicken wings. This appetizer is a credit to the poultry industry, in which some pretty meaty chicken extremities are stuffed with ground pork and then lightly deep fried (is that too oxymoronic?). This unique dish is typical of many on the menu, which combines some of the standard Thai restaurant fare with dishes that are not seen in the typical US Thai restaurant. The poached salmon was also good, topped with a chili/garlic sauce and served over braised bok choy.

For those who enjoy Thai food, I definitely recommend visiting Lotus of Siam. You'll need to overcome your apprehensions about Thai food in Vegas, however. You might also set aside preconceptions about anonymous-looking restaurants in commercial strip malls. The result will be worth the effort.

