

Vive la France!

Escape the bustle in this romantic hideaway

Looking for a romantic tête-à-tête? Well, we've found it.

Stepping out of a small cramped lift, you ring the doorbell and enter Le Marron. Surrounded by antiques and knick knacks, you can imagine that you are in a house in France - owned by a very stylish older lady who probably wears Chanel. You're escorted to your table - each one is a little candlelight private oasis, hidden from other diners with etched glass screens.

Le Marron is a private kitchen that specialises in casual home-style French cooking. The owners deliberately chose a typical commercial building in Causeway Bay to transform. Clearly one of the owners is an interior designer, from the wallpaper and chandeliers to the 'boudoir' - everything is authentically and uniquely French.

Simple French delights

Toh, the manager, says proudly that "the beauty of being in a building like this is that we can keep our prices low and still get high quality ingredients".

Le Marron offers over 40 dishes ranging from quiche and salads to fresh seafood and steaks. They also serve up classic French dishes like baked onion soup, canard de confit, escargot and for goose liver aficionados both smoked and pan fried foie gras.

While you are deciding what to have, try not to overindulge in their freshly baked bread with pate and French butter. We chose the Seafood Ice Mountain and Iberian ham to start, followed by Angel Hair pasta with truffle oil, Angus Rib Eye with King Prawns and Lamb Shank with Ratatouille.

As promised, the food was simple, very reasonably priced and the ingredients were top notch. The Iberian ham melts in your mouth. The Alaskan King Crab was sweet and meaty. The Angel Hair was to die for - I'll definitely be back for it.

I love a restaurant that does 'amuse bouche', we had a tiny lemon sorbet to cleanse and refresh our palates before our main courses. Don't forget to save room for dessert - delicious pastries, tart tatin, puddings, cheese and coffee. If it's not too hot, have your dessert and coffee on their fabulous balcony. The French style awnings and ambience make this the perfect place to end your romantic tête-à-tête.

Bookings are a must, same day reservations during the week can be arranged. For weekends, you'll need to book a week in advance. Call (852) 2881 6662 or go to www.marron.com.hk.