

CHINACHOW

JING and SHIN YEH are two spanking new waterfront Chinese restaurants that sound like Taiwanese pop groups. But that's where the similarity ends. BY FLORENCE FONG

SHIN YEH

#02-19 LIANG COURT SHOPPING CENTRE,
RIVER VALLEY RD, TEL: 6338-7337



What

A partnership between local restaurant group Tung Lok and 31-year-old Taiwanese porridge restaurant chain, Shin Yeh. Diners can enjoy pretty views of Clarke Quay as they eat. The place stays open till 2am daily — super for supper.

Décor

Typically Chinese with a contemporary touch. Think floral carpets, cream-coloured tables and beige leather chairs in a huge dining room. A departure from the usual dinky Taiwanese porridge restaurants common here.

Crowd

Crammed with corporate lunchers despite its pedestrian Liang Court premises. But more of the Chinese businessmen variety than stylo wheelers and dealers.

Food

Forget \$10 buffets. This is upmarket Taiwanese porridge for those with bigger budgets. There are three Taiwanese chefs in this outpost and theirs isn't the usual fare found here. Good thing, since I was never a fan of what I considered a poorer cousin of *zhi char*. At Shin Yeh, luxurious, interesting dishes are offered on top of the humble omelettes and pig's trotters. There's fleshy, crispy, addictively salty **fried pomfret with garlic** (\$36). There's briny-gummy slivers of **mullet fish roe** (\$36/eight) and cute cling-wrapped **steamed buns with pork** (\$4.80 each). The latter tasted oddly, my lunch partner aptly remarked, like porky *ming chiang kueh*. Of course, there's also **sweet potato porridge** (\$1.50), Shin's version a lumpy cross between Cantonese *chok* and broth. Capping the heavy meal was the **glutinous rice ball with peanut** (\$1.50/piece) — essentially handmade *muah chee* dusted with peanut powder. Delicious, but as the menu so dutifully informs you — that's \$1.50 per morsel. Now, who orders *muah chee* by the piece?



Verdict



A swankier option for people who think porridge is 'sick people's food'.