



Intoxicating

ASIAN FUSION AND MASTERFUL COCKTAILS AT **SOBER KITCHEN**

The **Uni Ban Mian** (¥178)—bottarga, bamboo shoots, bone marrow and sea urchin on noodles.



A few weeks ago, we swung by Sober Society to taste the cocktails. Naturally, as it's run by Shingo Gokan of Speak Low, the drinks are superb; but we left with a hankering for Chinese food from the second floor restaurant concept Sober Kitchen. At 8pm on a Tuesday night there was an hour wait—word spreads fast in this town.

We start off with the cold Ahi Poke (¥68). It takes the cliché tuna avocado salad and brings new life to the dish, with a sinful egg yolk and dashi soy sauce blend beneath, topped with fried dumpling skin.

Another elevated version of a classic is the KFC, or Ka's Fried Chicken (¥88), which is crispy on the outside, tender and juicy on the inside. Dunk it into the addictive harissa soy vinaigrette. Their Foie Gras Ma Po Tofu (¥128) is only mildly spicy, but the foie gras and ground pork gives the dish a richer, more complex profile.

Something any sea urchin lover must try is the Uni Ban Mian (¥178). A bowl of the gummiest noodles you'll ever taste, mixed with bottarga and bamboo shoots, it's topped with roasted bone marrow at the table, courtes-

sy of your server. A strong taste of the sea pairs beautifully with the buttery bone marrow, begging you to eat until the bowl runs dry.

There are only two desserts on the menu: the Sesame Crème Brûlée (¥38) and the Five Spice Panna Cotta (¥48). We went with the latter—fresh cooked cream, with delicate notes of five spice and lavender, topped with raspberries and almond. In a word: amazing.

We decided to end the night with the Instagram-worthy Canal Street (¥100)—a Chrysanthemum Pisco and lychee cocktail, served in a teapot, and the Lolita From Nolita (¥90), a refreshing yet sweet blend of Cynar, sweet vermouth, chocolate bitters and soda water.

We plan to return as soon as possible to try every other drink and every other food item we can get our hands on. Only next time we'll come back with a party of six—Sober Kitchen doesn't accept reservations for groups smaller than six. ★ **Jennifer Stevens**

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