



SZ

S U Z H O U

ALL IN THE FAMILY

MEXICAN CLASSICS BY THE JINJI LAKE

WE HAVE AN AWESOME APP COVERING CHINA'S BIGGEST CITIES AND IT'S FREE



GO ON, DOWNLOAD IT.



that's
app



Shanghai | Beijing | Guangzhou | Shenzhen | Tianjin | Suzhou

FANNINGS

Un-Locke-ing the Secret of Her Success

Interview by Ned Kelly

Winner of Bartender of the Year at our first ever That's Suzhou Food & Drink Awards back in May, we thought it was high time to find out the story behind Fannings, and her humble beginnings in her front room.



What is your background?

I'm from Guangzhou. When I was 10 years old I went to boarding school, and have not returned to my hometown since. My parents are both businesspeople. Compared to most Chinese parents, mine are pretty open-minded. They always give me choices.

How did you first get into the bar business?

When I was in third year of university, I lived in a small house on Pingjiang Lu. It wasn't very big, but I had a bedroom on the second floor and a living room on the first. The area was beautiful back then, so I came up with an idea that I should change my living room into a bar. So I did.

How would you describe the early days of Locke Pub?

It wasn't really a business venture; it was just for friends. It wasn't open to the public

until one day an Irish couple passed by and my door was open. For some reason they thought it was a gay bar and just wandered in. They became my first 'real' customers. Sometimes I left customers my key, and they drank there, put the money on the table when they left the bar, and even fed my cats. I had really good time, because I felt safe. I felt people are kind and trustworthy.

How did the move to the new venue come about?

We got kicked out! People thought our music was too loud, and Pingjiang Lu had become too expensive and touristy for me by then.

What can people expect on a night at the new Locke Bar?

It's local pub. You meet local people here. It's also an event space and we host music, art and theater events here. We try to support musicians and artists as much as possible,

and they support us too. So if you come here, you either make some friends or experience some culture.

Is Locke Bar your full time thing, or do you have another job?

It's full time. On the weekends, I work 15 hours a day, but I love it.

What is your philosophy behind running a pub?

This pub is named Locke after the English philosopher John Locke. When I opened I want it to become an open-minded place, where people can share their ideas freely.

// D-10, Suzhou Culture & Expo iStation Plaza, 1 Guanfeng Jie 观枫街1号; 文博广场iStation D-10 (186 6229 1374)



LA FAMILIA MEXICAN KITCHEN

A Taste of Mexico on the East Side of Jinji Lake

By Tess Humphrys

THE PLACE

Leisure and dining options on the eastern side of Jinji Lake have been given a boost with the opening of Suzhou Olympic Sports Center, a brand new sports and shopping complex. Operated by the Casa Zoe team, La Familia Mexican Kitchen is the newest member of a growing list of Mexican-style eateries in Suzhou, and serves a similar menu to its sister restaurant.

THE FOOD AND DRINK

The Mexican family combo (RMB98) features a somewhat random selection of savory, deep fried bites, and oddly, churros with chocolate sauce. How authentically Mexican it is to include fries, chicken nuggets and potato skin with cheese and bacon is up for question, but hey, they all tasted pretty good. Taco salad (RMB48) offers a light and refreshing counterpoint to the deep-fried platter, but the minced beef flavor could have been more robust, and got lost in the other flavors, including a weirdly sweet sour cream.

The nine-layer dip burrito (RMB65) was a bit too spicy for our taste, and the rice and refried beans sides were a good counter to the heat, but a little on the small side. Some sour cream could've helped with cooling down the heat.



We washed our mains down with a tart frozen raspberry Margarita (RMB45) that could have used with a touch more booze. The micheladas (RMB45), made with beer, lime juice and an exciting mix of sauces and spices, isn't a drink for everyone, but the sweet and sour flavor combination really develops as you sip on it.

We rounded things off by revisiting the churros that we'd set aside earlier. They were a little doughy on the inside but perfectly crunchy and sugary on the outside, while the very sweet chocolate sauce complemented them well. It was a shame to hide these with

the appetizers and we ended up ordering another portion (RMB25) to finish things off.

THE VIBE

The restaurant has a nice atmosphere, thanks to its bright and colorful décor and groovy Latin music. While the food won't have you jumping up and down in excitement, it is a nice addition to a neighborhood where there are few international options.

L3-01, Suzhou Olympic Sports Center, 999 Zhongxin Dadao Dong. 中新大道东999号奥体商业广场L3-01 (512 6763 3899)

GOLDEN OLIVES

Mediterranean Vibes in Suzhou

By Tess Humphrys

THE PLACE

Foodies in Suzhou have been raving about Golden Olives since it opened at the Suzhou Center in June. As the fifth location of the Greek restaurant chain in China, they're obviously doing something right.

THE FOOD AND DRINK

Our meal started on a high note with the cheese and cold cuts platter (RMB68) featuring a tasty combination of feta and parmesan cheese, cured meat, pickles, and some grilled, fluffy bread. We paired it with a beautiful Greek salad (RMB42), where the brined olives and creamy feta mingled nicely with a light balsamic dressing and some fresh, crunchy vegetables. All the flavors were light and well-balanced, making this the perfect summer salad.

Although billed as a small portion, the GO Mixed Grill (RMB128) was much bigger than expected. The chicken and pork souvlaki were both tender and delicious, while the chicken and pork gyros were well seasoned with herbs and spices. The little side salad, while not the star of the show, featured some wonderfully delicate onions, which were sweet and not overpowering.

Our Greek yoghurt with walnut and honey (RMB22) brought a perfect end to the meaty feast, and we washed it all down with a refreshing glass of white wine with apple juice and lime (RMB28) and a bottle



of Mythos beer (RMB26), which were both perfect for the great outdoor terrace overlooking Suzhou Center.

THE VIBE

An open kitchen means the delicious aroma of grilled meat greets you as you enter, along with friendly and attentive staff. The calming blue and white interiors transport you

to Santorini, and you can almost imagine beaches and cool sea breezes as you enjoy your meal. Small touches like the Eleia olive oil and balsamic vinegar they use showcase their attention to detail, making this one of the more authentic Western food options in Suzhou.

3F, South Building, Suzhou Center, Xinggang Jie 星港街苏州中心商场南区3楼 (512 6788 8360)



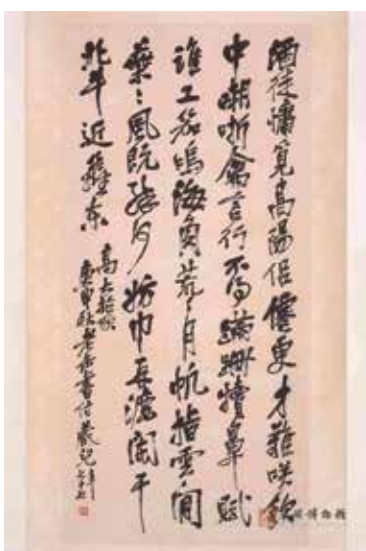
EVENTS



● Paw Patrol Live

Popular Nickelodeon animation *Paw Patrol*'s stage adaption is coming to Suzhou for four shows on the first weekend of August. The story of the show focuses on 10-year-old Ryder and his pack of search and rescue dogs who work together to save and protect members of the fictional Adventure Bay community. Since entering China in 2015, video clips of the show have been watched more than 1.6 billion times on iQiyi, and in 2017, the series began airing on CCTV and has since attracted an even wider audience around the nation.

// Thursday, Aug 2-Sunday, Aug 5, 7.30pm. RMB180-580. Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)



● Selected Calligraphies from Suzhou Museum

The works of more than 30 prominent calligraphers from the Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties will be featured at this exhibition. Highlighted showpieces include a poem handwritten by poet Wu Junqing (1844-1927).

// Through Sunday, Sep 2. Suzhou Museum, 204 Dongbei Jie 东北街204号 (szmuseum.com)



● Camel Pub Quiz

Every Tuesday, the Hardest Working Man in Show Quiz-ness, challenges with 10 rounds testing a wide variety of subjects ranging from general knowledge, film and current affairs questions. A total of RMB800 in Camel vouchers are up for grabs, plus plenty of shots to keep the atmosphere lively and competitive.

// Every Tuesday, 8pm, free entry. The Camel, B1, Hengyu Plaza, 188 Xinghai Lu 苏州园区星海街188号恒宇广场一期地下一楼



● Alexander Gavrylyuk Piano Recital

Ukrainian-born Australian pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk, who has won numerous awards and accolades since he started playing music at age 9, will be performing in Suzhou. During his concert, he'll perform masterpieces by Bach, Liszt, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev.

// Saturday, Aug 18, 7.30pm. RMB80-480. Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)



● InterNations August Event

Join InterNations' longstanding monthly networking event at Regalia Resort & Spa, and meet fellow expats in the city over Southeast Asian-inspired canapés and free-flow wine, beer, cocktails and soft drinks, along with a panoramic view of Jinji Lake. There's even an afterparty at Pulp Fiction for those who want to party all night long.

// Friday, Aug 24, 7.30pm. RMB160 for albatross members / RMB210 for basic members / RMB230 at the door. 2 Ligongdi, SIP 苏州工业园区李公堤2号 (www.internations.org)



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Next to Suzhou Centre Mall, the epitome of dining and shopping experience, W Suzhou offers 60 serviced apartments designed with W signature chic and innovative touches, ranging from one-bedroom to three-bedroom with our signature W bed to make your stay perfect.

Spacious living rooms with integrated kitchens equipped with your favorite hardware from dish washer, oven to microwave. A work space with High Speed Internet Access, savvy in-room entertainment, plush W bathrobe and other playful indulgences. Relax and breathe easy with "Airetek" air-purifier systems.

For reservation and information, please contact

+86 512 6988 7777 ext. 7317 or
michelle.li@whotels.com

©2017 Marriott International, Inc. All Rights Reserved. W and its logo are the trademarks of Marriott International, Inc. or its affiliates.

W
SUZHOU
苏州W酒店

**MASSAGE · FACIALS
NAILS · WAXING
EYELASHES**



DRAGONFLY@ HARMONY CITY
Harmony City Mall, Room 3210, Third Floor,
269 Wang Dun Road, SIP, Suzhou
苏州工业园区旺墩路269号
圆融星座商场3楼3210
☎ (+86 512) 6763-0486

EVERYTHING SUZHOU EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.



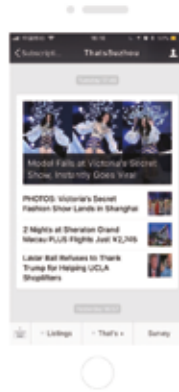
NEWS



EVENTS



FASHION



ART



RESTAURANTS



HEALTH



BARS



CULTURE



NIGHTLIFE



GUIDES



MUSIC



GIVEAWAYS

GO ON, FOLLOW US.

