

138 East : City's happening gastro pub

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka: The young foodies in the city always look for a place to dine where they can chill as well. This requires a certain ambiance which could be difficult to find - an environment which is not too formal, then again not too casual even. However, to their delight, restaurateur Ashfaq Rahman Asif brought a solution, a place that offers pub-like vibes, picturesque décor, and mouthwatering food all at the same time.

The idea behind 138 East, located in Gulshan-1, was to provide all sorts of customers with a spacious restaurant and jazz-pub like laid-back aroma where people could relax and embrace openness. The eatery features a funky décor - rustic-chic yet comfortable, colours all white and yellow bright, chairs all different from one another, sofas inside containers, glass walls covering an entire side, an outdoor area in white and bamboos, and jazz covers playing in the background - the place is a unique piece of art itself.

But that is not all the gastro pub offers. It serves every culinary delight one craves freshly cooked and delivered right to the table.

Their Lobster Bisque Soup priced at BDT 560 features fresh lobster from the ocean in rich, creamy and tangy soup to enthrall the tastebuds. The go-to savoury dish Tex-Mex Fries priced at BDT 380 offers crispy fries, with roasted chicken, chipotle mayo topping and grilled house cheese blend which is an absolute crowd favourite. Not to mention their signature burger 138 Beef - a majestic burger prepared by tender and

smooth beef, layered with fresh lettuce, tomato, grilled onion served with crispy fries - priced at BDT 450.

Other crowd pleasers of 138 East are their pizzas - perfectly done in wood burning oven - more specifically Cheesy Chicken, Seafood and Mexican. The first has house tomato sauce topped with roast chicken, spicy chicken chutney and four cheeses blend on thin-crust pizza at BDT 730, the second is thin crust pizza with their delectable house tomato sauce topped with succulent prawns, calamari and chunks of fresh sea fish at BDT 1100, and the third offers smoked chicken in spicy tomato sauce on thin crust pizza, with vibrant bell peppers, corn and black olives at BDT 810.

For pasta-lovers, the restaurant has creamy mushroom fusilli priced at BDT 610 which is basically a fusilli pasta with sautéed mushrooms and chicken in creamy bold mushroom sauce. Beef Stroganoff Fusilli Pasta is another favourite with mushrooms and beef in a creamy rich sauce over fusilli pasta at BDT 690.

Among the mains, two are tongue-pleasingly popular among the people. One is 138 Signature Norwegian Salmon imported from Norway, topped with creamy mustard sauce, with a side of creamy spinach at BDT 1350 and Lobster Thermidore served with mushroom tart and grilled tomato priced at BDT 500/per 100 gm.

Wait is over for the icing on the cake which are their hot desserts - Chocolate Souffle with ice cream at BDT 360, Fried Ice Cream at BDT 350 and the most unique Gold Rush at BDT 360 with edible 24 carat gold flakes.

With a seating capacity of 250, the enormous restaurant is not only a fan-favourite among young people but also to any age group from kids to families. For any kind of event, there could not be a better choice. And that reflects in everyday activities of 138 East as it always remains happening as per the vision behind it, however, with proper health guidelines of course, amid this sensitive times.