

FOODSPY

JU-RIN

316 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, CROWS NEST

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RATING 9.5/10

My concept of Japanese food, probably like thousands of others, is limited to sushi bars around Sydney. But that all changed recently thanks to my son, who introduced me to "serious" Japanese food.

For this special occasion he took the family for a treat to Ju-Rin, a little gem hidden away in Crows Nest and run by the affable Terry Nishiura, with the help of an army of young waiters. Ju-Rin is the proud recipient of one hat as the Favourite Asian Restaurant in *The Sydney Morning Herald's Good Food Guide 2010* awards.

To start, we ordered miso soup (\$2.80) and edamame – soy beans – (\$4.80) to nibble on, followed by assorted sashimi (\$29.50) of tuna, kingfish, squid, salmon, trevally and scallops, prepared by sushi chef Sam Koksomlow. Melt-in-your-mouth yummy.



This was followed by squid and scallop dumplings (\$11 for three) and karaage – marinated and deep-fried chicken – with a side order of steamed rice. I loved this dish's rich flavours and texture. We also ordered assorted tempura (\$18.90) consisting of king prawns, eggplant, potato, pumpkin and carrots. Crisp and delicious. It was all washed down with lashings of green tea. You can, of course, order Japanese beer or sake.

To top off a great evening of sumptuous food by head chef Naoki Fukushima, Terry asked us to let him choose our desserts. My daughter had green tea ice-cream topped with red-bean sauce (\$6.50). I got the piece de resistance, tempura ice-cream (\$8.50), which comes with a choice of three sauces, and my son had sakura mochi, sweet rice wrapped in a cherry-blossom leaf (\$3.50).

Our food was great value at about \$40 a head, excluding alcoholic drinks.

You can order from the board specials or mix with dishes from the complex menu.

Terry, a hands-on owner, has a direct route to the trawlers and gets only the best fish. In fact, he sends a text message to regulars to let them know when he gets his hands on bluefin tuna. **RAFIQ MUGHAL**