

Title:

Seek out Thai Bamboo Bistro

Word Count:

574

Summary:

Out-of-the-way Irvine Thai spot is well worth the visit.

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The Orange County Register

Originally published Oct. 7, 2005

Keywords:

dining, restaurants, Irvine, Horan

Article Body:

A couple months passed between our visits to Thai Bamboo Bistro, and this time, on our third s

Sometimes, a little more information is dangerous and just enough to convince you not to return

Not this time.

Our first visit was on a summer Monday. We were a little ahead of the lunch rush, our 2-year-o

The center sprang up in the shadow of the Shady Canyon estates seemingly overnight. It's out o

It's in one of those new-generation neighborhood centers that has an all-too-familiar feel abo

We ventured into the bistro, and within 10 minutes, the intimate place was packed. So packed,

Jungle curry with chicken (\$12) was mellow and smooth (we ordered the milder green curry; yell

So, we went back, this time for dinner, without the boy.

Again, the restaurant was full, though minus the maddening lunch crush. Again, our dinner was

We were struck by the cool, contemporary room, with its handful of bamboo decorative touches.

The chef markets almost daily, co-manager Jade Tam told me. Sometimes the grocery, sometimes a

Then, well, life kept us away for a few months, until I spoke with manager Amy Lam.

As we chatted about the restaurant's expansion plans and presentation themes, Amy asked, ''Do

Well, yes, I said, we're going to their wedding in a day.

''We haven't seen them in a while,'' Amy said, laughing. Julie warned they'd be absent for a w

I know Julie's taste in food and restaurants just well enough that this little nugget of infor

We were again wowed by fresh flavors. We started with the Thai bamboo sampler appetizer (\$14),

Our shrimp in spicy mango sauce (\$16) was sweet, but subtle. We upgraded from the standard pad

It won't be such a long wait for our next meal here.

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