

# Chinese restaurants plentiful around town

By DAN COWHIG  
Staff Writer

"When the Chinese first came here," Francis Chan, owner of Carrboro's Jade Palace, says, "they came with three trades: laundry, tailoring and cooking. Machinery took away the laundry, and the sewing machine took away the tailoring, but the cooking — the cooking is flourishing.

In few places does that art flourish as it does in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. There are seven major Chinese restaurants in town or nearby and five within walking distance of the campus.

**The Golden Dragon**, located on 130 E. Franklin St. in the Franklin Center, three minutes from the Old Well, is open seven days a week, including holidays. Golden Dragon's hours are from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. It offers three daily specials for \$1.69, and some highly popular chicken wings and eggrolls. The Golden Dragon's simple and clean interior is a pleasant surrounding in which to enjoy a quick meal, a light snack or even just to pick up your take-out.

The other cafeteria-style restaurant, **Four-Five-Six**, is a block away on 118 E. Franklin. The prices here are slightly higher than its competition. Four-Five-Six's hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.. There is a happy hour on Thursday night.

**Hunan**, at 132 W. Franklin, across from University Square, is the largest and probably the most popular of the downtown Chinese restaurants. Hunan specializes not only in the style of its name, but also provides a broad selection from other styles, such as Canton or Beijing. Their "Special Fast Lunch" served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on weekdays, and from noon to 2:30 p.m. on weekends, runs \$3.11, and includes a choice of soup and rice or lo mein.

The stylish **Dragon's Garden**, on 407 W. Franklin St., is best summed up by owner Lihia Peng's description of what a restaurant should be. "It's not only the kitchen that makes a good restaurant. You have to have a good staff, a good manager and know what your customers likes. The customer must feel comfortable, pleasant and at home." With the Dragon's Garden Peng has met this definition.

Peng and Chef Lee created a menu which covers nearly every major style of Chinese cooking, plus a few of their own creations,

the favorite of which is the Spicy Chicken Garden Style. Lunch is served seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and prices range from \$2.95 to \$3.75. Dinner, also served seven days a week, runs from 5 to 10 p.m. and costs between \$4.50 and \$9, with a few exceptional dishes costing more.

**The Phoenix**, located on 1404 E. Franklin St., is in a way an extension of the Dragon's Garden, for the creator of the Phoenix's sauces is none other than Dragon's Garden Chef Lee. Lunch is served seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular items that range from \$2.95 to \$3.75, and an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$3.95. Dinner, also is served seven days a week from 5 to 10 p.m., and prices range from \$3.95 to \$8.50.

**The Lotus Inn**, about one mile east of campus on Highway 54, serves a mixed menu of traditional Chinese dishes in the Hunan and Szechuan styles, and a few of the good-old American-generic entrees such as fried chicken.

Lunch is served seven days from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with a complete lunch available for as low as \$2.69. Dinner is available from 5 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday with the price ranging from \$3.00 to \$8.00. The Lotus Inn is closed Monday evening.

Well worth a twenty-minute walk or a five-minute hop on a J, C or F bus, Carrboro's **Jade Palace** at 103A E. Main St. is one of the best of the area's Chinese restaurants.

Lunch is served weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 2:30. There is a daily choice of four or five Luncheon Specials at \$2.90, and the fourteen regular lunches are available at \$3.25. Dinner is from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday runs until 10:30. Dinner entrees run from \$4.50 to \$8.50.



The Dragon's Garden, featuring Chinese cuisine, offers excellent lunch specials.

## Greek food popular on The Hill

By DEVI SEN  
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill is a melting pot of different cultures, traditions, and cuisines. The Greek restaurants in town reflect this tradition.

If you're looking for a quick bite to eat, Hector's is the place. **Hector's**, a fast-food Greek restaurant created by the Lias brothers in 1976, is a one of the more noticeable aspects of Franklin Street. Located at 201 E. Franklin St., Hector's serves a variety of Greek dishes. From Souvlaki, a beef shish kebab, to a Greek grilled cheese sandwich, Hector's provides a quick, inexpensive bite to eat. Both lunch and dinner prices there range from 95 cents to \$2. Manager and co-owner Sevastos Lias established this restaurant for the convenience of the many student clientele.

**Mariakakis**, on the other hand, provides a delicatessen as well as

a family restaurant. The Mariakakis family opened their restaurant in 1963. Manager Johnny Mariakakis credits Mariakakis' success to their half-Italian, half-Greek pizza. Made with feta cheese, a salty cheese from the southern tip of the Balkan peninsula which is usually used in salads, the popular pizzas have made a name for Mariakakis. Located on the 15-501 bypass, "the restaurant is a local favorite, with over 50 percent clientele being local families" said Manager Johnny Mariakakis. Mariakakis has all ABC permits, and serves over 30 brands of beer. Prices range from 90 cents for domestic to \$1.50 for imported beer.

Marathon is the youngest of the three restaurants. Located at 416 W. Franklin St., manager and owner Jerry Koupavas has run the

Marathon for over a year and a half and considers it fine, cheap dining. The patrons consist mainly of local practitioners, doctors and lawyers and, of course, students. The popularity of Marathon stems from the "Marathon Special." This rare combination of shish kebab, wild rice, pita bread, and salad is only \$3.75. For those interested in an after work or classes drink, the Marathon does serve beer and wine.

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