

—Up front—

Confucius say — check out these choices in Chinese dining

From staff reports

Okay, so you're sick of hamburgers and you're just not in the mood for a sub. You want an eggroll, some fried rice and maybe some sweet and sour chicken. Well, fret not, because Chapel Hill has several eateries designed to bring the Orient a little bit closer to home.

Located at 118 East Franklin Street, **Four-Five-Six Chinese Restaurant** is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

With its built-in tables and benches and lighted serving menu the Chinese specialties are served in a manner that resembles a fast food atmosphere.

Sweet and Sour Chicken, a big seller at the restaurant, is only \$1.50. Other specialties such as Moo Goo Gai Pan and Chicken Wings are \$1.89

each. For the money, Four-Five-Six can hardly be beat because the food is good, fast and cheap. And if that's not enough, they even throw in a cup of egg drop soup for FREE.

Practically right next door, Confucius say **Golden Dragon** offers authentic Chinese food for reasonable prices.

At Golden Dragon, 128 E. Franklin St. behind Johnny T-Shirt, Chinese family members have been serving authentic Chinese meals American style — the fast food way — for 10 years. Both lunch and dinner are available seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Compared to other Chinese restaurants, Golden Dragon lacks an aesthetic Chinese appearance.

Yet, the food is authentic Chinese.

The Dragon serves sweet and sour pork, fish and chicken, fried rice, lo mein (noodles) and fried wonton. Favorites among students, office personnel and workers are spicy chicken wings, beef broccoli and egg rolls, according to employees.

The restaurant attracts couples, groups of friends and individuals who find the sterile, spartan and Grade A atmosphere appropriate for studying. The reasonable prices also attract students. Entrees range from \$1.59 to \$1.89 for specials. Egg rolls, soup and fried wonton are 95 cents each. Fortune cookies are five cents.

And for those who have no intentions of studying, the Golden Dragon also serves alcohol — domestic, imported and Chinese beer for \$1.10, \$1.20 and \$1.40 a bottle, respectively.

Hunam Chinese Restaurant, 790 Airport Road, offers a little more in the way of a Chinese atmosphere than Four-Five-Six or the Golden Dragon. For an average cost of about \$8, the diner's chosen entree is a veritable feast: huge portions are accompanied by egg rolls, soup and fortune cookies.

The restaurant's chef from Hong Kong specializes in Cantonese, Hunan and Szechuan styles of cooking, and diet and salt free menus are available on request. Open seven days a week, the restaurant's hours are Monday through Friday, 11 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch, and for dinner Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. **The Phoenix**, 1404 E. Franklin

Street, is open seven days a week for both lunch and dinner and offers meals cooked to the true Chinese food lover's request. With one chef from Saigon and one from Singapore, any Chinese dish in the Hunan, Cantonese, or Mandarin style that is not offered on the menu, can be prepared for you — just ask. Specials change every day, with dinner entrees ranging from \$5.95 to \$11.95.

Also, not forgetting the often starving and hungry and always budget-conscious student, they offer an all-you-care-to-eat lunch buffet, with soup included, from 11:30 to 2:30 every day.

This is just a partial list of the closest places you can satisfy your soy sauce cravings.

A look at options for high-class wining and dining

From staff reports

You finally did it. You asked that cute girl or great guy out, and you want to make a good impression. You can't cook, but that's okay, because this is special — you've been saving up and money is no object.

McCarthy's, on East Franklin Street and Elliott Road in Kroger Plaza, specializes in London Broil, grilled seafood and prime rib for dinner. The atmosphere is very quiet and intimate. The waiters wear tuxedos, but although it's somewhat formal, it doesn't overwhelm you. A full-size, wooden and brass bar is available where those of age can relax and imbibe. An average dinner, without a bottle of wine, runs between \$30 and \$40 a couple.

The Brass Rail Restaurant and Bar, 1301 E. Franklin St., caters to customers of varied tastes and wealth. Located downstairs in a brick building, the mahogany walls and brass rails accompanying the bar create a warm atmosphere. Prices range from \$2.95 and up for salads, about \$4 each for 1/3 lb. burgers and sandwiches and from \$6.95 to \$12.95 for seafood, chicken and steak entrees that are served with a salad and bread, or rice, pasta or baked potato as a substitute. Also, for the money-conscious student who wants to have a meal while savoring the atmosphere, three types of pasta (vermicelli, fettucine and linguini) with a choice of five different sauces are available for about five dollars per

serving. **Crook's Corner**— As Franklin Street curves its way into Carrboro, look for the pig on your right, and you'll have found one of the country's few truly gourmet Southern eateries. No filet mignon here, but rather the likes of shrimp on grits and mountain trout salad. Entree's, along with drinks and everything else, are expensive — \$13-\$20, and portions are small, but preparation is excellent. For \$1.50 the hush puppies are a must. **Cracovia**, 300-B W. Rosemary St., is a European restaurant that specializes in Polish, French, German and Scandinavian cuisine. The soft candlelight and the semi-formal look of linen tablecloths produce a calm,

intimate atmosphere, especially suitable for an important date. Average entrees cost between \$11.25 and \$13.95, but, Monday through Thursday, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., they feature early dinner specials — every entree is \$9.95 for this hour. Employees say the most popular dishes are czaszlyk, a Polish recipe for herb-marinated lamb that is grilled, and Norwegian salmon, that they have flown to them fresh directly from Norway. For the steak and potato lovers out there, **Jordan Le Charlois**, 157 E. Rosemary St., and **Slugs at the Pines**, have some of the area's finest beefsteak complete with luxurious atmospheres. Both also have full-size bars and all ABC permits available.

And, last, but definitely not least, in terms of food, style and size of the meal's bill, the award-winning restaurant, **La Residence**, 220 W. Rosemary St., is arguably the area's best known expensive restaurant. The menu is handwritten daily in both English and French, with an average of three or four entrees offered. The restaurant, which was converted from a private residence, has a unique, distinctive charm. You can listen to swing music from the 30s and 40s while you're soaking up the atmosphere's classic elegance. Expect to spend at least \$40 to \$60 per couple, and add at least \$40 more if you partake of their extensive wine cellar.

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