

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Corporate entertaining at Wembley without breaking the bank

With finance directors scrutinising expenses claims with more vigour than ever, George Shaw discovers the ideal venue for pre and post match dining, just a corner kick away from the main entrance of Wembley Stadium.

Anyone who has experience the delights served up dined at Heavenly Hot Dogs on the walkway to Wembley knows how bereft the area is of decent eating places.

Alisan - the name comes from a mountain in Taiwan, where the local women are renowned for the feminine charms - is a contemporary eatery, which specialises in dim sum and fine Cantonese cuisine, makes a great

corporate entertainment venue. There is seating up to 200 diners at ground level, while a spacious mezzanine level cocktail lounge with can hold receptions for up to 50 guests. A further 12-seater private function room (with integral karaoke system and 20,000 stored tunes) and ample on-site parking complete the package.

Along with traditional Cantonese favourites, there's an inspired menu, with echoes of the renowned Yauatcha and Hakkasan restaurants, which have proved a rich recruiting ground for Alisan's chefs.

The dim sum is among the best in the country although cheung fun was a touch thick, but soft, enclosing perfectly cooked king prawns. Scallop shumai also impressed with fresh, moist seafood and flying fish roe, whilst the fried squid cake with a tangy lemongrass sauce excelled.

The lamb rack in black coffee sauce with chocolate chips offers an intriguing juxtaposition of contrasting flavours,

whilst mains like venison strips in black pepper and stir fried ostrich in rice wine sauce indicate that this is no ordinary local Chinese.

The only disappointment was that pan-fried king prawn in rice wine sauce - was slightly overcooked and too sweet.

Puddings include poached bird's nest with red dates and a distinctly European marble cheesecake with raspberry compote and sour cherry.

Service is adept and slick and, perhaps surprisingly warm and friendly.

Despite the location and décor and the quality of the cooking, prices are remarkably modest. A three-course a la carte meal for two with a bottle of house wine will set you back around £60. On match day a three-course set me costs only £35 a head plus service.

Alisan Restaurant & Bar, Wembley Retail Park, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0EG

T: 020 8903 3888

W: www.alisan.co.uk

ALISAN Opening Times:

Mon, Wed, Thurs

12 noon - 5.00pm & 6.00pm - 11.00pm

Friday

12 noon - 5.00pm & 6.00pm - 11.30pm

Saturday

12 noon - 5.00pm & 6.00pm - 11.30pm

Sunday

12 noon - 5.00pm & 6.00pm - 10.30pm

Closed Tuesdays, except on event and match days, when Alisan remains open all day.



www.alisan.co.uk