

## A. Fusion provides North Side Experience on the South Side

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Great Dining Columnist



This isn't your typical south side Chinese food experience. Although the Mongolian beef and the Orange Chicken

are the expected top sellers, the sushi and vegetarian options are equally as popular. Owner Johnny Zheng says, "We get about 32 orders of the tofu entrees a night." He also says the tofu is steamed and not fried, because the restaurant focuses on healthy eating not just delicious eating.

A. Fusion stands for "Asian Fusion". What sets A. Fusion apart from other restaurants in the area, is

that people can sit down together at a table, but enjoy completely different meals. Japanese, Thai and Chinese entrees are featured here and according to Zheng, this is exactly what diners want. "Young people like everything mixed", Zheng says.

But it's not just about the food genre choices at A. Fusion, it's also about spicy selections. When you travel to the Northside of Chicago, diners want and prefer spicy options. But after doing business at 4601 Lincoln Highway in Matteson for 10 years, Zheng says he's observed the spicy food that is common in Thai culture, isn't ordered on the Southside as often. But he still gives Southside diners what they don't expect: Sushi and spicy food, just like if they'd

traveled to a restaurant North of here in Downtown Chicago.

"Other restaurants serve Cantonese style, out of one pot, without a lot of spicy options", Zheng says. "We surprise the customer with hot selections."

Zheng physically assisted with the layout and the renovation, giving the restaurant a modern, clean and contemporary feel with an Asian touch. The restaurant is fresh and new and so is the food. Besides being artisti-

cally and expertly displayed, the meat and seafood is fresh, not frozen... and you can taste the difference. The steak, prepared on the Habachi grill is juicy and packed with flavor, not tough.

The scallops nearly melt in your mouth. It's not clear what's more exciting, the fresh, beautifully dis-

played food or the Hibachi performance that incorporates fire and cutlery skills. For around ten bucks a meal, it's not cheap to find out for yourself and to bring a date with you... I know I'll be back.

*Location:* A. Fusion – 4601 Lincoln Highway, Matteson, IL  
*Tel.:* 708-748-9893



Two of the many fabulous dishes at A. Fusion.



A Fusion's has notably warm and friendly servers which tends to be a sign of great food at restaurants.