

# Broadway bound

Like American coffee shops, Hong Kong-style diners stay open from morning to night serving the comfort dishes that everyone in the community knows and loves. The difference, of course, is the kind of foods that signify home.

**Patricia Unterman**

*Examiner restaurant critic*

At Millbrae's curious and wonderful Broadway Bistro, owner Wendy Fu, her daughter Candace, and a team of specialized chefs and bakers bring to life an encyclopedic menu of Cantonese, Singaporean and British-inflected Western dishes that warm the hearts of everyone who grew up in Hong Kong. Broadway Bistro passes them on to the next generation, American-born and raised.

One way to navigate the gigantic menu is to begin at the appetizer section with roti prata (\$4.95), a soft, chewy Singaporean pancake served with a cup of spicy yellow coconut milk curry for dipping.

Then move on to Broadway Bistro's superb deep-fried dishes. I'm wild about salted fish and tofu cube (\$7.50), dark-brown squares of deep-fried tofu, creamy inside, crunchy outside, scattered with fried chile and salted fish crumbs, whose intense flavors bring the dish to fever pitch. Equally luscious, fried oysters in spicy salt and chile (\$8.50) has the deep crunch and spice of the best New Orleans cooking galvanized by a dusting of minced red and green chiles. To clear the palate, you need a plate of choy sum (\$6.95), my favorite green vegetable with long juicy stems and tender leaves, expertly cooked crisp and tender in sheer garlic sauce (\$6.95).

In the house special section (not to be confused with the chef's special section), look for huge, succulent black pepper sauce prawns (\$14), butterflied in the shell to absorb more of a dark, smoldering salty sauce.

In the baked pasta and rice section, head for baked spaghetti with bolognese sauce (\$7.50) mounded in a metal ramekin and topped with melted cheese that enriches the meat sauce. It's a kid's dream dish



PHOTOS: JASON STEINBERG/SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

that everyone wants to eat.

Finish with a stainless-steel mug of milk tea Hong Kong-style (\$2.25), and a cocktail bun (\$1.25) from the bakery counter — a soft white roll filled with buttery coconut paste.

Frankly, you can get lost in the myriad choices — thin, English-style sandwiches made with butter, not mayonnaise; European-style fried rice; Hong Kong-style Italian pasta; endless drinks, cold and hot; and Asian ice cream desserts. Many families pile into Broadway Bistro's comfortable upholstered booths to share a hot pot of boiling broth with platters of meat and vegetables to cook in it. Others come for chicken curry.

The possibilities are endless at this cheerful, orange-painted, Hong Kong diner. Once you've found your favorites, you'll keep coming back, again and again.

**Broadway Bistro's rack of lamb with veggies and mashed potatoes, above, and the house special, Hai Nan Chicken with rice, below.**



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Patricia Unterman is author of "San Francisco Food Lover's Guide."

**Restaurant review**

**Broadway Bistro**

**Location:** 349 Broadway St., Millbrae  
**Contact:** Call (650) 692-3378 or visit [www.broadwaybistro.com](http://www.broadwaybistro.com)  
**Hours:** Open Sunday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
**Price range:** Most dishes \$4.75 to \$7.50; chef's specials \$12 to \$16  
**Recommended dishes:** All deep-fried dishes; soup of the day; Hainan chicken; choy sum; black pepper prawns; baked spaghetti bolognese; cocktail buns; ice cream crepes; milk tea  
**Credit cards:** Visa and MasterCard



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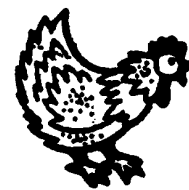
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