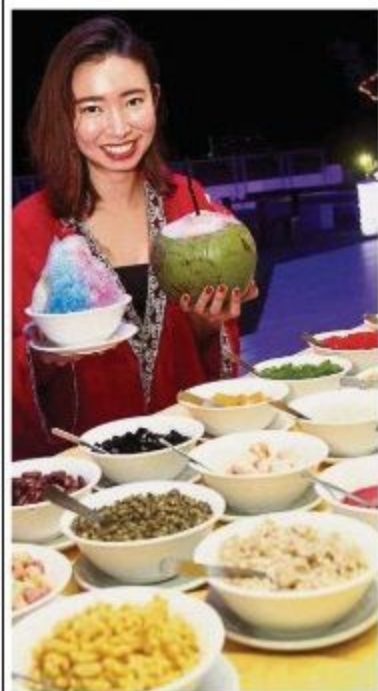


Smorgasbord of M'sian favourites

Grab a coconut cooler before trying wide array of dishes on the buffet



By GRACE CHEN
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WHAT a lovely way to start a meal — with plump bright green petai seeds and pegaga leaves so fresh they looked freshly plucked from a garden.

On the side, an array of local condiments featuring fermented durian, *cinculok* with lots of sliced shallots and fermented fish sauce, its colour accented by bright red and green bird's eye chillies.

For its Ramadan buffet spread, The View Cafe at Best Western i-City, Shah Alam, is looking to impress diners with a line-up of Malaysian favourites.

To start the meal, a coconut bar offers diners fresh coconut juice and whipped up shakes for the first 45 minutes.

Why not serve it throughout the buffet we asked?

The role of the coconut bar, said general manager Anthony Kong, is to act as a cooler and thirst quencher during the Ramadan season.

Besides, there is the *ais kacang* bar with close to 30 toppings also available where diners can try their hand at making rainbow mountains with the coloured syrups.

The children were vocally appreciative of the chocolate rice and cocoa pops.

Desserts are not the only strong point here as the mains on offer are equally delectable.

One vegetable dish of note is the taro stalks stir-fried in chillies, turmeric and pinches of toasted dried shrimp. The flavour of the soft stalks swimming in a sour and spicy broth reminded me of a traditional

Quench your thirst with fresh coconut juice and then head to the *ais kacang* bar for dessert.



The aromatic lamb briyani. — Photos: SHAARI CHE MAT/The Star

Javanese tamarind soup.

This sourish theme is carried over into the mackerel *pindang*, which is said to be indigenous to Palembang, Sumatra.

Talking about fish, the grilled seafood section is a popular spot with a choice of stingray, sardine, crimson snapper, scad and chub mackerel for diners. Grilled to order, these small-sized fish were very fresh, evident from their sweet flesh and natural oily hints still present within.

A personal recommendation is the noodle bar. We loved the broth for the prawn noodle soup and Sarawak laksa for their flavourful character but it was the plump, fresh, succulent prawns, offered as one of the toppings, that made this a popular section for many.

The roasted whole lamb with briyani was also nice and we tried this with mutton *varvel* and beef *rendang* on the side.

The anchovy sambal with groundnuts and potatoes was a big hit, judging from the empty chafing dish at the end of the night. A popular snack, this dish was found on almost every table, with diners nibbling on it as they chatted.

But what left a lasting impression was the beef tripe salad. Soft, squishy and carrying all the flavours of roasted desiccated coconut, lime juice, chillies and finely sliced shallots, we were told that the kitchen team had taken two days to prepare the tripe.



So as not to waste the effort, slices of tripe can also be found in the spiced rice porridge. This palate tingling dish is comfort food, reminiscent of nostalgic kampung days.

To end the meal, a station offers a variety of deep-fried goodies including *keropok lekor*, banana fritters, prawn *cucur* and golden oyster mushrooms to name a few.

I especially liked the prawn *cucur* for its fluffy texture and respectably sized prawns.

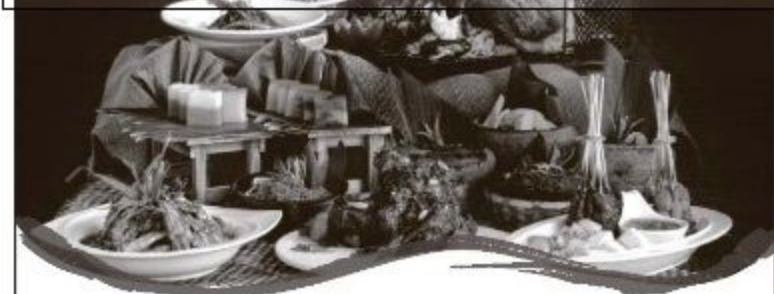
The Ramadan buffet is priced at RM 109nett (adult) and RM59nett (children and senior citizens).

THE VIEW CAFE, Best Western i-City, A-GF-01, No 6, *Persiaran Multimedia*, Section 7, Shah Alam (Tel: 03-5521 9000) Business hours: 6.30am to 10.30pm, daily.

This is the writer's personal observation and not an endorsement by StarMetro.

Pembuka Sajian Desa
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Kitchen Art



Mackerel pindang from Palembang, Sumatra.



Plump, bright, green petai seeds with an assortment of relishes.

17th - 21st May 2018	22nd - 31st May 2018	
Normal Price: RM138nett		
RM69 Per Adult / Child / Senior Citizen	RM86.60 Per Adult (RM96.60 - RM10 Voucher)	RM69 Per Child / Senior Citizen
1st - 9th June 2018	10th - 14th June 2018	
Normal Price: RM130.19nett *0% GST		
RM81 Per Adult (RM91 - RM10 Voucher)	RM65 Per Child / Senior Citizen	RM65 Per Adult / Child / Senior Citizen

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