



ABC CLARION

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Per Se Restaurant Review

by Audrey Zhou

Recently, our neighbors received their green card. As a way to show thanks for us always helping them out as well as to celebrate this momentous occasion, they treated us to a meal at Per Se. Per Se, a French inspired restaurant, is a reservation based restaurant that requires notice months beforehand. It is one of the few 3 Michelin star restaurants in New York City and is known for its extravagant menu items and prices. To get the most out of this experience, we ordered the tasting menu which costs \$295 per person.

The tasting menu in Per Se is very unique. This menu consists of 9 courses with the 9th course, the dessert course, containing multiple parts. Not a single ingredient is repeated in the other courses. The 9 courses include lamb, two types of fish, caviar, a salad, foie gras, and an assortment of desserts. While the main ingredients in the each of the

sources stays the same, the chef changes the dishes daily and keeps the exact dishes a secret to create excitement.

One of the key components to Per Se's success is their great atmosphere. The dark lighting and large fireplace at the center creates an appealingly cozy mood. There are large flower arrangements throughout the store. While they are not over the top, their presence is definitely felt and brings elegance to the restaurant. Because the restaurant is located on the 4th floor, the view of the Upper West Side of Manhattan is stunning.

The staff is very professional and attentive as well. A server at the door immediately asked for our coat while the other led us to our table. One of the servers, seeing my mother holding her large purse, immediately offered a stool for her to place it on. The server made sure to ask about any allergies beforehand so they

could replace those ingredients and explained all of the dishes thoroughly and impeccably. One instance when the staff's level of professionalism truly made an impression of me was the transition between dishes. Within 1 or 2 minutes of everyone in our party finishing his/her dish, four members of the staff surrounded the table and simultaneously removed the dishes from the table. They did this so flawlessly and silently that I never noticed the one behind me until I saw an arm removing my dish.

This restaurant spares no expenses to make their customers happy. All of the ingredients used in these dishes were fresh and of high quality. Even the two types of butter that accompanied the bread had a backstory of where in the country they were from and how it was made.

When we asked to tour the kitchen and Per Se easily accommodated us. They even got us a

copy of the menu used that day with the chef's signature on it! Upon leaving, the staff presented us with a bag containing boxes with their restaurant's name on it with sweets inside.

Overall, the experience was incredible and will be something I will remember for a very long

time. The service and atmosphere at Per Se was above and beyond anything I expected. While I will probably never use my own money to eat here again, I highly recommend this restaurant if you ever find yourself with a lot of money and a desire to spend it all on food.



A Strange Encounter

by Sydney Peng

Why wasn't his friend answering? This was so stupid. He wanted to apologize, honest, but now Jamie wasn't letting him... At the third time the voicemail answered in that sickeningly sweet tone, he nearly chucked his phone across the street. His sleeve hit someone in the nose with a faint slap, and he froze. Turned. Saw a small girl standing right next to him.

Brown hairs, brown eyes, that whole spiel. She did look vaguely familiar though, in that kind of 'was she in a lower grade at school' way, and he found himself a little more irritated by the simple question than he should have been, racking his brains and getting ever so close but never quite reaching the answer.

"Hey, should I know you?" he asked her. "I'm...My name's Alex Santos. You just looked rather familiar, that's all."

She looked up. He expected her to either shrink away or boldly answer his question (kids always fell into those two types), but she did nothing of the sort.

Instead, she grinned a little

and said "Why should I tell you my name?"

"That's true," he said, wondering if maybe stranger-danger classes actually did have a use. "I mean, I promise I'm not a bad sort, but even still, your first name? It's just bugging me. Actually, you can just tell me the name of a teacher you know; I'll know them if we did go to the same school. Or, like, the actual school—" Frustrated at his blabbering, he slapped himself in the forehead. "Oh, geez, sorry about this..."

"Now, why should I tell you my name?" she said again, as if he hadn't said anything at all.

"Uh, well, I just said... You don't have to--"

"No, no, no. I don't want you giving anything over to the police, you know? I mean, I'm going to be your murderer. I'd be stupid to let you get any dirt on me." Then she hopped into the moving crowd as the crosswalk flipped to WALK and disappeared in a flood of people as a chilly March wind blew.

The Less Popular...Taiwanese Pop Music

by Tanya Wang

These days, kids talk about pop artists like Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber, Demi Lovato, and so on. Once in awhile, you'll hear someone talk about k-pop, Big Bang, EXO, BTS, 4Minute, 2ne1, etc. K-pop has been a growing trend all over the world and so many people are becoming fans. There's one kind of pop music that's less popular and not many people know of. That would be Taiwanese Pop, or you could say part of the mando-pop genre. Some of the artists in Taiwan's pop music industry are similar to k-pop artists, but they're less physically appealing and aren't as commercialized. In this article, I will be introducing the top five artists/bands in Taiwan's pop music industry.

Jay Chou is a Chinese/Taiwanese musician, singer, songwriter, record producer, director, and actor. He's appeared on many TV shows, including The Voice China. His top songs include, but aren't limited to,

Black Humour, Dragon First, Gong Gong Headache, Faraway, and Superman Can't Fly.

Jolin Tsai is a Taiwanese singer, songwriter, dancer, actress, and entrepreneur. She's often referred to as the "Queen of C-Pop", "Asia's Dancing Queen", and "Asian Madonna". Some of her top songs include I'm Not Yours, The Third Person And I, Play, Love Love Love, and The Great Artist.

A-mei, stylized as a MEI since 2014, is the stage name of the aboriginal Taiwanese pop singer and songwriter. Her real name is Chang Hui-mei. She has been called a diva of the Mandarin pop music scene and the "Pride of Taiwan". Her top songs include Have You Hear Lately?, A Moment, Jump In, Jian Ai, and Jie Tuo.

Mayday is a Taiwanese rock band that consists of five members, Ashin (A Shin) (lead vocals), Monster (Guai Shou) (guitar), Stone (Shi Tou) (guitar),

Masa (Ma-sha) (bass guitar), and Guan You (Guan-You) (drums). They used to be So Band, but became known as Mayday in 1997. They are known as "king of concert" in China. Some of their top songs are Don't Want You To Be Alone, Your Legend, Don'ts Don'ts, Innocence, and T1213121

Show Luo is a Taiwanese singer, actor, and host. He's commonly known by his Chinese nickname Xiao Zhu (Little Pig) due to being overweight during his middle school years. He's also commonly known as "Asia's Dance King" by the Taiwanese media for his dance skills. He's well known for hosting the Taiwanese variety show 100% Entertainment. Some of his top songs include Gou Le, Zhi Ming Shang, Rock The World, Only You, and Xi Ming Ming.

These are only the top five artists/bands in Taiwan's pop music industry. Hope you guys find a new obsession!

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