



NATIONAL KITCHEN



by

Violet Oon

SINGAPORE



As a child I looked forward with excited anticipation to the delectable feasts cooked by my Peranakan aunts and grandaunts. At 16, in 1965, I begged them to teach me how to cook the dishes of my Peranakan heritage and that is how my culinary journey in the kitchen began. My obsession with the national past-time of eating out began much earlier when my father would take me out all over Singapore for breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner and supper.

Later on, as a food critic, I met some of Singapore's Culinary Treasures, from local chefs, to hawkers to home cooks, who welcomed me into their kitchens. My culinary heart has always belonged to Singapore and I share this love with you.

Welcome to the National Kitchen, where every day is a celebration and where food is all about love, sharing, family and friends.

Violet Bar

.....

PICKLES

.....

PINEAPPLE PATCHEREE . 4

PINEAPPLES, RAISINS, CHILLIES AND YOGHURT IN A SWEET SOUR SPICED GRAVY OF TURMERIC, GINGER, GARLIC AND SHALLOTS INFUSED WITH THE PERFUME OF CURRY LEAVES

NYONYA ARCHAR . 6

MIXED VEGETABLE PICKLE IN A SOUR, SWEET AND HOT SPICE SAUCE

SOUP

KIAM CHYE ARK THNG . 10

TRADITIONAL HEARTY FAMILY SOUP OF DUCK AND SALTED MUSTARD GREENS WITH A HINT OF SPICY CHILLIES

PONG TAUHU SOUP . 11

PRAWN, CHICKEN AND BEAN CURD DUMPLINGS IN A NYONYA HOME MADE PRAWN BISQUE WITH JULIENNED BAMBOO SHOOT

.....

SALADS

.....

ROJAK . 7

GUAVA, SOUR MANGOES, ROSE APPLES, PINEAPPLE, CUCUMBERS, JULIENNE OF PINK GINGER FLOWERS, JELLYFISH AND CRISPY CRULLERS TOSSED IN A SWEET, SOUR AND MILDLY SPICY SAUCE

TAU HU GORENG ^(V) . 9

FRIED BEAN CURD ON A BED OF JULIENNED CUCUMBER AND FRESH BEANSPOUTS TOPPED WITH VIOLET'S SIGNATURE SWEET AND TANGY PEANUT SAUCE

SAMBAL KIMCHIAM UDANG . 15

LILY BUDS TOSSED IN A SWEET AND SPICY DRESSING TOPPED WITH PRAWNS AND STARFRUIT

GADO GADO . 18

TEMPEH, FRIED BEAN CURD, HARD-BOILED EGGS, POTATOES, LONG BEANS, CABBAGE, CUCUMBER AND LONTONG RICE TOPPED WITH A MILDLY SPICY CREAMY PEANUT SAUCE AND PRAWN CRACKERS

(V) — VEGETARIAN (*) — VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

Makan Kechil, the Small Eats of the Singapore kitchen always formed the backdrop of my family's mahjong and cheki sessions on lazy afternoons where the women would gather to gossip and snack on these tasty morsels while still engrossed in the game.

STARTERS

NGOH HIANG . 15

DEEP FRIED PRAWN, CRAB AND CHICKEN WITH WATER CHESTNUT SEASONED WITH FIVE SPICE POWDER WRAPPED IN BEAN CURD SKIN

KUAY PIE TEE . 17

JULIENNED BAMBOO SHOOT AND TURNIP POACHED IN A PRAWN BISQUE SERVED IN A DEEP FRIED "TOP HAT" CUP TOPPED WITH PRAWN, CHILLI SAUCE AND A SWEET FRUIT SAUCE

SATAY . 15

GRILLED CHICKEN MARINATED IN SPICES AND SERVED WITH A SPICY PEANUT SAUCE TOPPED WITH GRATED PINEAPPLE, STEAMED RICE CAKE, CUCUMBER AND RED ONION

CORONATION CHICKEN IN WANTAN LEAF CUP . 9

A DISH TO CELEBRATE OUR COLONIAL HERITAGE. DICED CHICKEN IN A CREAMY CURRY SAUCE WITH GOLDEN RAISIN CHUTNEY SERVED IN WANTAN LEAF CUP

TURMERIC CHICKEN WINGS . 13

DEEP FRIED TURMERIC AND LEMONGRASS CHICKEN WINGS SERVED WITH A SPICY CHINCHALOK SAMBAL

IDLY SERVED WITH COCONUT & TOMATO CHUTNEY ^(V) . 7

SOUTHERN INDIAN FERMENTED STEAMED RICE CAKE SERVED WITH FRESH COCONUT AND TOMATO CHUTNEY

(V) — VEGETARIAN (*) — VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

..... **MEAT**

BUAH KELUAK AYAM . 23

CLASSIC NYONYA SPICY AND TANGY CHICKEN STEW AND BUAH KELUAK NUT INFUSED WITH FRESH ROOT SPICES OF LENGKUAS AND TURMERIC

REBUNG MASAK LEMAK . 19

CHICKEN STEWED IN A MELANGE OF SPICES IN A COCONUT GRAVY WITH BAMBOO SHOOT

CHICKEN AND PRAWN BOSTADOR . 15

A DISH FROM OUR EURASIAN HERITAGE. MINCED CHICKEN AND PRAWNS IN A FRAGRANT SPICY SAUCE WITH GREEN CHILLI PADI TOPPED WITH GREEN CHILLI

BEEF RENDANG . 23

TENDER BEEF SHIN BRAISED IN A MELANGE OF SPICES FLAVOURED WITH KAFFIR AND BAY LEAVES IN A CREAMY COCONUT SAUCE

DAGING CHABEK BEEF CHEEK . 36

AUNTY NANNY'S SLOW BRAISED BEEF CHEEK IN A RICH SPICY TAMARIND GULA MELAKA GRAVY AND COCONUT

..... **SEAFOOD**

CHILLI CRAB . MARKET PRICE

OFTEN KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL DISH OF SINGAPORE- FRESH CRABS IN A SWEET AND SPICY GARLIC CHILLI SAUCE STREAKED WITH EGGS

BUTTER PRAWN . 32

FRIED ANGKA PRAWNS TOSSED IN BUTTER FLOSS AND CRISPY CURRY LEAVES

UDANG GORENG CHILLI . 32

ANGKA PRAWNS TOSSED IN A SPICY FRAGRANT CHILLI PADI GARLIC REMPAH

FISH HEAD CURRY . 42

RED SNAPPER FISH HEAD STEWED IN AN AROMATIC CURRY OF CUMIN, FENNEL, CHILIES, TURMERIC AND ONIONS WITH TOMATOES, BABY EGGPLANTS AND OKRA

COD IN CREAMY LAKSA SAUCE . 39

BAKED COD IN A DELECTABLE CREAMY LAKSA SAUCE DRIZZLED WITH CORIANDER PESTO

IKAN GORENG CHILLI . 19

FRIED RED SNAPPER TOPPED WITH A SPICY FRAGRANT CHILLI PADI GARLIC REMPAH

GARAM ASSAM FISH . 23

RED SNAPPER FILLETS IN A SPICY AND SOUR GRAVY WITH PINEAPPLE SLICES AND LADIES FINGERS TOPPED WITH JULIENNE PINK GINGER FLOWER

SAMBAL BAJAK BARRAMUNDI . 30

DEEP FRIED BARRAMUNDI FILLET TOPPED WITH A CARAMELIZED CHILLI PADI SAMBAL

MEAT FROM HALAL CERTIFIED SUPPLIERS

... **VEGETABLES** **NOODLES & RICE** ...

CHAP CHYE . 15

CLASSIC NYONYA FESTIVE DISH OF BRAISED MIXED VEGETABLES AND BEAN CURD SKIN IN A RICH PRAWN BISQUE

JU HEE CHAR . 13

JULIENNE OF JICAMA, CARROTS, CABBAGE AND MUSHROOMS STEWED IN CUTTLEFISH BROTH TOPPED WITH DEEP FRIED CUTTLEFISH

KELEDEK MASAK LEMAK . 16

SWEET POTATO LEAVES, SWEET POTATO AND PRAWNS COOKED IN A LIGHT SPICY COCONUT PRAWN BROTH

SAMBAL EGGPLANT ^(*) . 12

WEDGES OF FRIED EGGPLANT TOPPED WITH A SPICY AND SOUR SAMBAL SAUCE

SAYUR LODEH ^(V) . 13

MIXED VEGETABLES AND TEMPEH IN A MILDLY FRAGRANT SPICED COCONUT GRAVY

SAMBAL PETAI WITH PRAWNS . 18

STINKY GREEN BEAN FRIED IN A SPICY DRIED PRAWN SAMBAL SAUCE WITH PRAWNS

MEATLESS MEATBALLS

RENDANG ^(V) . 15

WALNUT AND CHEESE DUMPLINGS BRAISED IN SPICES FLAVOURED WITH KAFFIR AND BAY LEAVES IN A CREAMY COCONUT CREAM SAUCE

DRY LAKSA . 22

FRESH RICE NOODLES TOSSED IN VIOLET'S LAKSA GRAVY TOPPED WITH PRAWNS, TAU POK AND BEAN SPROUTS

DRY MEE SIAM . 21

FRESH RICE NOODLES FRIED WITH MEE SIAM CHILLI SAMBAL TOPPED WITH PRAWNS, JULIENNED BEAN CURD AND CHINESE CHIVES

HAINANESE CHICKEN RICE . 18

THE SINGAPORE CLASSIC MADE WITH CHICKEN, FRAGRANT RICE INFUSED WITH RICH CHICKEN STOCK SERVED WITH CHILLI GARLIC SAUCE, GINGER JAM AND THICK DARK SOYA SAUCE

HAKKA ABACUS BEADS . 18

TRADITIONAL HANDMADE TARO DUMPLINGS TOSSED IN A MELANGE OF DRIED CUTTLE FISH, GROUND CHICKEN, DRIED SHRIMP, CHINESE MUSHROOMS, BEANCURD AND CHINESE CELERY

BUAH KELUAK NOODLE . 24

THE DELECTABLE BLACK DIAMOND OF THE NYONYA KITCHEN INFUSED WITH SPICES, MINCED PRAWNS, CHILLI PADI AND COCONUT MILK TOSSED WITH SPAGHETTI NOODLE

JASMINE RICE . 1

NASI LEMAK RICE . 2

JASMINE RICE STEAMED WITH COCONUT MILK

CHICKEN RICE RICE . 3

MANTOU . 5

TRADITIONAL FRIED BUNS

(V) — VEGETARIAN (*) — VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

*One of my happiest teenage memories is that of learning to make exquisite
Nyonya kuehs from my Grand Aunt Nanny.*

*She insisted that I had to get them all perfectly formed of the same shape and size.
I would burn the midnight oil to earn her praise for these
tiny morsels of Cuci Mulut – sweet endings to a delicious meal.*

.....
DESSERTS
.....

ROTI JALA WITH GULA MELAKA AND BANANA SAUCE . 10

TRADITIONAL NYONYA LACED PANCAKE SERVED WITH A GULA MELAKA AND
BANANA COCONUT SAUCE

KUEH BENG KAH . 10

GRATED TAPIOCA CAKE TOPPED WITH GULA MELAKA SYRUP AND COCONUT MILK

KUEH DAH DAH . 9

GRATED COCONUT COOKED WITH GULA MELAKA WRAPPED IN PANDAN INFUSED CREPE

PULOT HITAM WITH COCONUT ICE CREAM . 12

BLACK GLUTINOUS RICE STEWED WITH GULA MELAKA AND COCONUT MILK TOPPED
WITH COCONUT ICE CREAM

PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE . 12

LIGHT BUTTER SPONGE TOPPED WITH PINEAPPLE AND A BUTTERSCOTCH SAUCE



MAY YOUR RICE BOWL
ALWAYS BE FULL.

— V.O