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New & Trendy: Spice Route

Story by Stacey McLeod May 14, 2008



When Ink (Ultra Supper Club) and Liberty Entertainment (C Lounge, Rosewater Supper Club) teamed up last year and opened [Tattoo Rock Parlour](#), Queen West didn't know what hit it. The slick rock spot was highly successful and evidently, it was a partnership that worked.

The pair took their next party down to King West. But, this time they've swapped the rock for an Asian theme and unveiled the massive bistro-bar [Spice Route](#) -- a gorgeous new spot catering to hybrid foodie drinkers -- those who want to dine on top-notch nosh, but stay and get their drink on once their meal is done.

The huge King West space was overhauled and given a spiritual makeover, with waterfalls, hand-carved Buddha statues and an array of rich, Asian-inspired colours throughout. Plush velvet banquettes and booths line the open-concept rooms while tons of sleek, black tables cater to diners and party crowds (this place is massive and can easily accommodate large parties).

The washrooms may be [Spice Route's](#) most memorable attribute. As one partygoer on launch night aptly put it, "it makes peeing feel like a religious experience." Cabana-style washroom doors slide open and unveil huge, personal washrooms with a wall-sized one-way window looking out to the patio in all its spiritually-themed glory. Thankfully, outdoor partiers can't see in but with huge personal washrooms and one-way windows, you can see why they have a washroom attendant there. It's every boozed-up exhibitionist's dream.

WHERE: 499 King St. W., Toronto, ON

WHAT'S PLAYING: Ambient tunes suitable as both background noise and meditation music.

ON THE MENU: Literally the hottest drinks on the menu, the Hot Spiked Teas compliment Asian dishes and give King Westers something to sip on other than martinis. Try a small pot (\$7) of chai tea with tequila rose and Grand Marnier, or the lemon tea with Limoncello and vodka.

THE CROWD: Good-looking, well-groomed, high-heeled King West lounge crowds.

WHAT TO WEAR: Fancy and colourful is best here. You don't want to be upstaged by the décor.

TIP: [Spice Route](#) also has a semi-private large patio with comfy booths and tons of seating, so take advantage of these warm spring nights.