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Spice Route stirs up a sangria with an orchard of vitamins and a gentle buzz [By Stéphanie Verge](#)

The latest venture from impresarios Nick Di Donato and Charles Khabouth aims to bliss out the suit-and-stiletto crowd with moody lighting, a hand-carved four-foot Buddha and trickling water features. In that spirit, the resto-lounge's Asian-inspired cocktails offer a chill take on imbibing. The fragrant Zen-gria—their spin on the Spanish party fave—marries three kinds of alcohol with berries, citrus fruit and papaya juice. Health-obsessed hedonists can even pretend the pretty drink's nutrients will counteract the liver-curdling effects of the booze.

*\$25 a pitcher. **Spice Route**, 499 King St. W., 416-849-1808.*



1 1/2 cups of papaya juice: rich in enzymes; helps digestion



1 1/4 ounces of Asian pear sake: it's alcohol, but hey, it's made from fruit!



Blackberries and raspberries: screw All-Bran; get your fibre at happy hour



1 1/4 ounces of plum wine: more fruit!



Blueberries: the antioxidant movement's super-fruit poster children



Lime, lemon and orange: vitamin C-packing, free radical-kicking citrusy goodness



1 1/2 ounces of manderin vodka: there are residual nutrients in the simple sugars, right?

Photographs by Christopher Stevenson

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