

Neighborhood Hidden Gems:



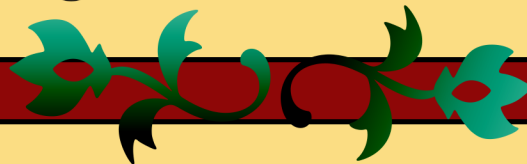
Family-Owned Restaurant



Introduction:



COVID-19 has affected many businesses around the country, especially the food industry and the local restaurants. Because of the pandemic, a lot of these local restaurants have been negatively affected with many even temporarily closed because they don't have the ability to do outdoor dining. A lot of these restaurants are family-owned restaurants that have been around for a while. Many are local favorites, but they are at risk of closing due to the effects of the pandemic. You can say that they are the hidden gems that make our neighborhood rich in cultural flavors. Here is the list of some of the best family-owned restaurants in the OC area! Let's all come together and support these restaurants so they can continue to provide our neighborhood with amazing food!



1



Thai Famous Cuisine

Thai 

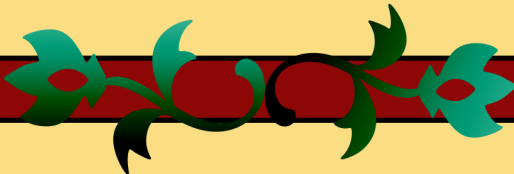
Address: 11891 S Euclid St, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Hours: Mon - Sun 11:00 AM - 1:00 AM

Takeout - Indoor Dining

Located in the corner of Euclid and Chapman is one of my favorite Thai restaurants of all time! It is hard to miss the restaurant when you drive by it, as Thai Famous Cuisine sits at the edge of the plaza right behind the gas station with a big flashy sign and colorful lights.

Thai Famous Cuisine is a family-owned restaurant that has been around for more than 10 years. The owner is a very sweet lady, who also works as the cashier for the restaurant. The restaurant has recently reopened for indoor dining again, but before that, they would only offer takeout due to the pandemic.





Pad Thai

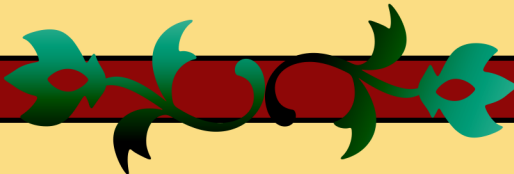


Tom Kha Soup



Pineapple Fried Rice

A must get dish here is definitely their Pad Thai. I had so many Pad Thai at other places, but Thai Famous is my go to place for Pad Thai. The noodles are cooked perfectly and are not too soggy. If you are a rice person, I would definitely get the pineapple fried rice. My favorite thing about the fried rice are the cashew nuts and bits of pineapples. They give the fried rice so much texture and flavor. If you are in the mood for some hot soup, their Tom Kha soup is the best! It is basically a hot and sour soup full of flavor. The broth is cooked with coconut milk, so it is nutty and creamy.





Tasty Sandwiches

Vietnamese , Sandwiches 

Address: 9374 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CA 92683

Hours: Mon - Sun 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Takeout - Outdoor Seating

Tasty Sandwiches located in a small plaza across from Bolsa Grande High School and Garden Grove Park. The shop first opened back in 2013 and has been around for more than 8 years. The sandwich shop is one of the popular stops for high school students.

With their slogan “We cooked our food with fresh ingredients,” the quality of their food really lives up to their saying. Their banh mi are not your typical banh mi that you can get at other Vietnamese sandwich shops. They don’t offer cold cut banh mi as all of their banh mi selections are cooked fresh and hot right of their kitchen.





Grilled Beef Salad

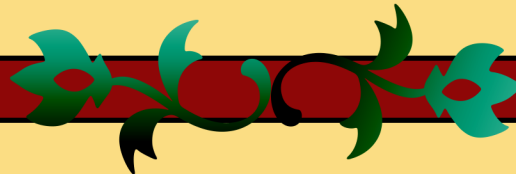


Grilled Beef Sandwich



Shaken Beef Pasta

My favorite item on the menu would be the grilled beef banh mi. The beef is juicy and tender, as well as their house special sauce really makes a big explosion of flavor in your mouth. The vegetables are fresh and they balanced out the banh mi by making it less greasy. Another go-to item on the menu for me is the grilled beef salad. Their salad is just a basic salad with lettuce, tomato, cucumber, red onion, avocado slices with a vinaigrette dressing. What makes the dish stand out is the flavorful stirred fried beef and onion. It pairs so well with the salad! If you wanted something more hearty, the shaken beef pasta is a great choice! It comes with a side of house salad, which makes it even better!





Simply Home Cafe



Chinese , Bubble Tea 

Address: 16173 Brookhurst St, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Hours: Mon - Thur: Closed; Fri - Sun: 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Takeout, Delivery

Simply Home Cafe is located in one of the popular plaza located on Brookhurst and Edinger right across from the Mile Square Park. Due to the pandemic, the restaurant currently only offers takeout with limited menu items. The restaurant did closed for a few months because of the pandemic, but finally open recently due high requests from customers.

Currently Simply Home Cafe only offers their signature dishes and selections of boba drinks along side snacks food. They are no longer offered their stirred fried dishes until further notice, which is unfortunate because their beef chow fun is very good!





Pork & Shrimp Wontons

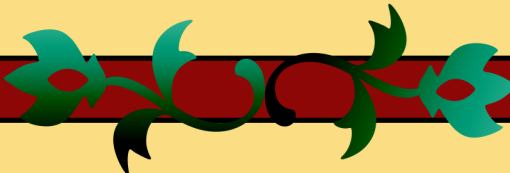


Simply Home Chicken



Popcorn Chickens

A must get dish here is their signature rice dish, the Simply Home Chicken, also known as “hainan chicken.” Their poached chicken was so juicy and tender and paired perfectly with their aromatic chicken rice. The highlight of the dish would be the various sauces that come with the dish. Another solid choice would be their pork and shrimp wonton. The wontons come in a sweet and sour spicy sauce that is very flavorful! The wontons are silky with the chewy pork and shrimp filling. Definitely one of the best wontons I have had. If you only in the mood for some quick snack, their popcorn chicken does not dissappoint! The small pieces of chicken are super crunchy and fun to eat.



The Dim Sum Co.



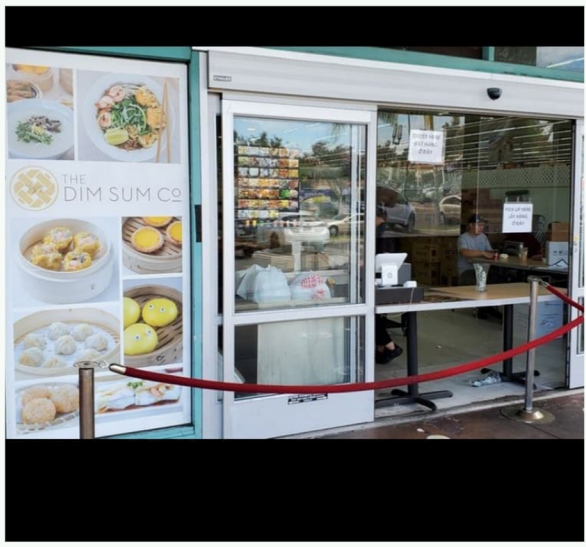
Dim Sum



Address: 8900 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CA 92683

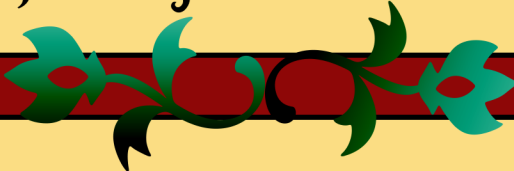
Hours: Mon - Sun: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Takeout



The Dim Sum Co. is located on the side of My Thuan Supermarket and only offers takeout for their delicious dim sum. This place in my opinion hands down has the best dim sum I have ever had. The only downside to it is that you can only buy your food to-go and would not get the full experience of being served food from the cart like a traditional dim sum restaurant.

They offer a wide variety of selections of items just like any other dim sum places. The food is always made fresh to order, as they have customers waiting in line constantly to order.

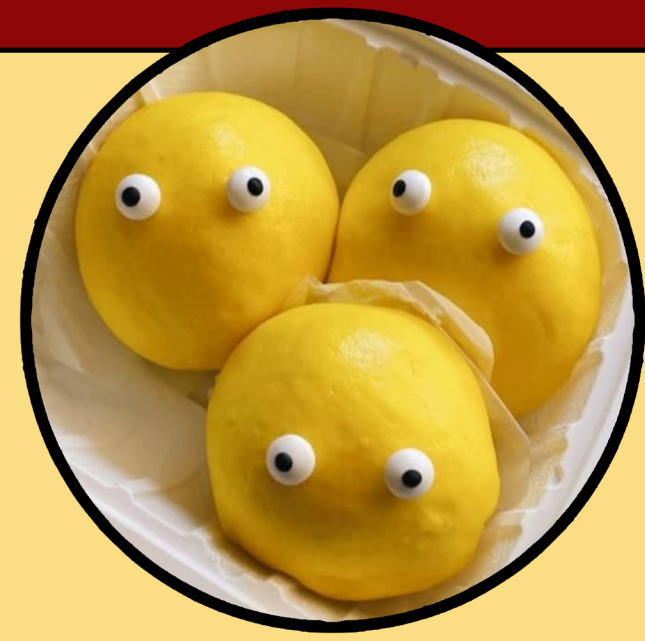




Pork Xiu Mai



Phoenix Claws



Poke Buns

A must get item here would definitely be their pork xiu mai. I have tried so many xiu mai from other restaurants, but nothing can beat the xiu mai here. The texture and flavor are on point. The xiu mai skin is thin and the pork filling is chewy, bouncy, and juicy with all the meat juice. Another favorite item of mine to order here is their phoenix claw, also known as chicken feet. The chicken feet are so tender that they melt in your mouth. They are so easy to eat as the meat just falls right off the bone. They are also famous for their custard buns, or poke buns. Not only do these buns are tasty with creamy filling, they are perfect for pictures.





Han Nam Udon & Sushi

Korean , Udon , Sushi 

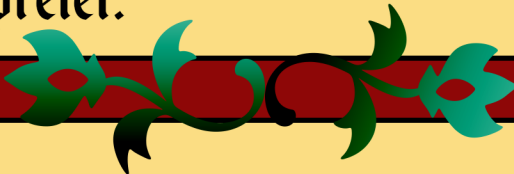
Address: 12942 Galway St A, Garden Grove, CA 92841

Hours: Mon - Sat: 10:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Takeout - Dine-in - Outdoor Seating

Han Nam Udon & Sushi is a small, family-owned restaurant hidden in a small plaza within Korean District of Garden Grove. The owner is a Korean lady, who doesn't speak much English, but will give you the best service every time you visit. She would always give you extra food and offer you a lollipop when you pay. The restaurant has been around for more than 10 years.

The restaurant seems to expand their menu and offers a lot more items on their menu now, including a variety of sushi selections and rice bowls. They still keep their traditional menu alongside their new menu, which I much prefer.





Inari Sushi

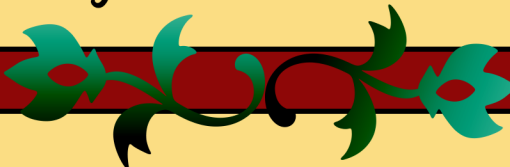


Udon Noodle Soup



Raw Fish & Steam Rice

Nothing can compare to their udon noodle soup, which I would say is their best dish. The bowl of udon would be served hot and steamy to your table only a few minutes after you order. The noodle is chewy, accompanied by the earthy flavor of the hot soup. When ordering your udon, you have the option to make it a combo by pairing it with rolls of your choice. The inari sushi is my favorite, as it has flavored rice wrapped inside of tof u skin. The roll pairs perfectly with the hot udon. A nother special item on their menu is the raw fish and steam rice. The hot steam rice is served on a bed of mixed vegetables and topped with a variety of raw fish. The fish selections are super fresh and tasty!



Tacos El Bandido



Mexican , Food Truck 

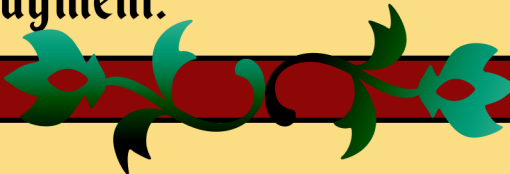
Address: 13231 Garden Grove Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92843

Hours: Fri - Wed: 5:00 PM - 2:30 AM

Takeout - Outdoor Seating

In my personal opinion tacos taste the best when they are from the food truck. Tacos El Bandido is a tacos truck located in a small area right next to the 22 Freeway. It is hard to miss, as the truck is big with a table set outside for anyone who wants to eat there. The owner of the truck is a young Hispanic guy in his mid 20. He is very welcome and super helpful when taking your order, as he would answer any question you have about the menu.

Tacos El Bandido offers a wide range of food selections beside your classic tacos from burgers to hot dogs to fries. I have tried many things on the menu and they all tasted good. I also really like that they accept Venmo as a form of payment.





Tacos (Asada Cabeza)



VIP Bandido Fries



Churros

Since it is a tacos truck, I would definitely recommend their soft tacos. They have a wide choice of meats from your typical asada to cabeza. I personally like cabeza as the meat is soft and fatty. What makes their tacos so special is the guacamole sauce that they put on their tacos. Another item that you must try is their VIP Bandido fries. It comes with their special spicy mayo sauce, shrimp, asada, and cheese. The dish is a little bit more on the heavy side, but it tastes so bomb, especially for late night craving. This item was recently added to their menu, but you definitely need to get it as a dessert to finish your meal, which are their churros. The churros are thick and filled with caramel sauce.

