

Pleasures of the Palate at the Pavilion



The table is set for sumptuous Filipino cuisine to be enjoyed al fresco against the idyllic backdrop of a cerulean sky, pristine white sands and the ultramarine waters of Bamboo Beach.

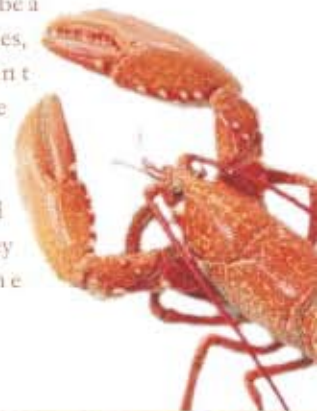
In keeping with Kawayan Cove's thrust to keep things natural and relaxed, the Beach Pavilion is focused on serving dishes that one would expect to have by the seaside. The kind of comfort food that one partakes with abandon, without any formality, and sometimes even without utensils.

"People can get any type of cuisine in the restaurants in Manila. But my memory of growing up by the seaside is always about fresh uncomplicated food like grilled fish and roast pig", says Bingle Puyat, director of Kawayan Cove, and one who personally oversees what goes on in the Pavilion when there is an event that needs to be catered.

Always in demand, as expected, are steamed prawns and shrimp, grilled fresh tanguingue and squid, green mango salad, and an unusual dish of

kangkang stalks simmered in coconut milk. Popular comfort food like *adobo*, *kare-kare*, crisp beef ribs and roast chicken are also available. Occasionally they will serve a whole *lechon* or calf, roasted right on the spot and expertly carved at the buffet table.

There will always be a variety of dishes, and different cuisines in the future. But freshness, abundance and Filipino are the key words of the season!



A View to a Thrill

For Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee, it wasn't Kawayan Cove's legendary white beach that caught their attention, but the dazzling view from the highest point on which they built their weekend retreat.

"We're not really beach people" says Mrs. Lee. "Our idea is to look out into the sea all day without having to touch the sand, and what a spectacular view we have from up here!"

The newly finished Asian modern house is in sync with Kawayan Cove's architectural motif. With its clean, bold lines, the abode is stately without being

intimidating, unassuming yet elegant.

"So many people and things inspired us," Mrs. Lee continues. "We liked the open bathrooms down at the beach pavilion, so we asked our architect for semi-open bathrooms also for our own home."

A German lighting expert was enlisted to create "an artwork of lights" throughout the house. Indeed their house is dramatic against the dark night sky, and the warm golden glow of the interior creates a lived-in homey feeling.

Kawayan Cove itself is a haven they treasure. They like the way that the entire place is ideal for contemplation. "Take for example Meditation Point," Mrs. Lee says, "the place commands such a fantastic view of the entire cove. Had it been for sale, we would have bought it! But it is thoughtfully preserved for everyone to enjoy."



Originally, they planned to go to Kawayan Cove only on certain times of the year. But these days they find themselves en route to their house on the hill almost every week.

"Our most memorable experience in Kawayan Cove happened in a span of 24 hours," Mrs. Lee shares. "We stood at the edge of our newly landscaped garden to watch the sun go down, just like they do in the movies. The sky glowed from yellow to orange, then to purple, until finally the sky and sea became one. By morning, we happily awoke to the sound of birds and of waves (yes, we can hear the surf from up here!) and to a 'painting' before us of sky, of sea, and a coastline of coves..."

But then she pauses and changes her mind. "No, the most memorable experience wasn't that...it was actually the realization that right here in our house on the hill, we can live that beautiful day over and over again."

