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CNT Review: Why Maiden Shanghai's sophisticated Friday brunch should be on your list

By [Isabella Sullivan](#) | May 29, 2021



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Brunch is back, and FIVE's offering is upscale affair, with organic MSG-free Chinese dishes and a well-heeled crowd

Nestled on the western shores of the Palm Jumeirah, [FIVE Palm Jumeirah Hotel](https://www.cntravellerme.com/content/12379-the-penthouse-at-palm-jumeirah) (<https://www.cntravellerme.com/content/12379-the-penthouse-at-palm-jumeirah>) is arguably one of the most scenic spots in Dubai. It's this picturesque location that makes it the ideal spot to enjoy [Friday brunch](https://www.cntravellerme.com/the-best-friday-brunches-in-dubai) (<https://www.cntravellerme.com/the-best-friday-brunches-in-dubai>). Appealing to a more discerning crowd, the venue revamped its brunch offering, with Naughty Noodles – a sophisticated sit-down affair in its upscale modern Chinese restaurant, Maiden Shanghai.

As you enter through a thick red curtain, you're whisked back in time to 1920s Shanghai, with dark panelled walls, oriental furnishings and a general sultry atmosphere. Floor-to-ceiling picture windows look out over the Arabian Gulf, and seating is available both indoor and on the terrace, which offers picturesque views of Dubai Marina and golden sands.



Maiden Shanghai offers both cool indoor seating and a sun-soaked terrace

The oriental theme continues to the cuisine, and guests are treated to a three-hour feast of unlimited Chinese classics and moreish FIVE creations. All guests receive a fruity mixed drink on arrival, whets the appetite for the onslaught of fresh and zingy dishes to come, most of which are gluten-free and organic. All are MSG-free. For those looking to make the most of the picturesque setting, there's even free-flowing Laurent Perrier for one hour – along with house bubbles and the usual beverage options throughout the brunch.

Glistening plates descend on the table, brought to you in waves by charming and friendly wait staff, on hand to talk you through each dish and ask your favourites, and bring more of any dish if wanted. For starters, there's crispy vegetable spring rolls, zingy chilli chicken and stir-fried string beans, a highlight being the zingy 'boom boom' shredded organic chicken with scallions and homemade pancakes. Lover of dim sum will also delight in light and fluffy baked wagyu puffs, organic chicken Siu Mai and dumplings, along with Cheung Fun (rice noodle rolls) wobbling away and oozing with shrimp.



Starters include an array of moreish dim sum

All the while, staff circle to make sure your glass is never empty, be it bubbles, grape, hops, or one of the six unique and playfully named mixed drinks (think Ruby Red and Bob-Licious). The signature serve, the fruity Naughty Noodles, is drunk straight from a noodle carton – emulating the playful persona of the FIVE brand. In between courses, guests can sit back and enjoy the view, be it out of the soaring glass windows or on the sun-soaked terrace.

While any dish is available to re-order, it's worth saving room for mains, and soon our table fills with juicy Kung Pao prawns, crispy fish fillet in a black bean sauce, thick and bursting

flavours. A Mango lychee dessert, mandarin cake, green tea orange tart and baked yoghurt all feature, the perfect antidotes to swathes of rich meaty dishes and golden fried delights.



All dishes are MSG free, many being organic

For something more decadent, the group has also launched a partnership with Two Michelin Star Chef René Frank, who brings his expertise to create a bevy of innovative and indulgent dishes, which are free of refined sugar. Outside of the set lunch menu, or for an additional cost, guests can try sweet dishes inspired by early 20th century China, such as coconut nectar custard (sweet custard, beetroot-raspberry cookie and refreshing blood orange sorbet) and an inventive sweet potato and passion fruit mooncake.

For those wanting to indulge on for fresh, high quality organic Chinese food without the MSG, sip on innovative mixed drinks and enjoy and some of the best views in Dubai, along with a playful and laid-back atmosphere, then FIVE's Naughty Noodles is a great way to spend a Friday

AED 400 for ladies; AED 450 for gentleman, includes unlimited food, bottomless drink and 1 hour of free-flowing bubbly.; palmjumeirah.fivehotelsandresorts.com
(<https://palmjumeirah.fivehotelsandresorts.com/eat-drink/maiden-shanghai>)

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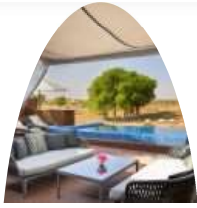
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