

Metropolitain

46 High St, Sai Ying Pun ☎ 6271 6102

The place: Usually packed to the hilt, this hearty bistro sports a patio, bar area and cosy tables with high stools – all that's missing is the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower.

When in France: Aside from the classic yet reasonably priced menu options like escargot, beef tartare and cheese platters, a must try is the rosemary rotisserie chicken – cooked on the centrepiece oven black in the middle of the bar (the owner says it was flown in directly from France, along with the chickens themselves). Carb lovers will swoon for the side dish of potatoes doused in butter and herbs. Another high priority on the tasting menu is the lamb with a perfect balance of sauce, alcohol and meat.

Final words: It's not difficult finding a place for first dates or parties in Hong Kong, but for authentic and inexpensive French food that's equally good for post-break-up comfort food or a rainy day feast with friends? That's what makes Metropolitain a rare gem.

Foodie review by Joyce Yip

