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Pizzazzy pizzas

By FEI YONG

Fresh dough and superior ingredients not only pizzas at Papa John's but has become a tasty founder.

If you want to know what success tastes like, try eating Papa John's Pizza.

Driven by his own passionate belief that fresh dough and superior ingredients are the secrets to tastier pizzas, founder and former delivery boy John Schnatter opened his first Papa John's outlet in Indiana, the United States, in 1985.



The Meatballs Pizza can be found at Papa John's Pizza.-Ching Yee Seng

Today, Papa John's Pizza is the world's third largest pizza company with over 3,300 restaurants in more than 30 countries including China, Korea, India and the Middle East.

According to Berjaya Pizza Company Sdn Bhd marketing manager Joey Lee, Papa John's success can be attributed to its philosophy of "Better Ingredients, Better Pizza".

"Our strongest selling point is our fresh, hand-made dough that is produced under stringent quality control and delivered chilled, not frozen, to all our outlets. We also use fully imported tomato paste made from fresh tomatoes that are canned within six hours of plucking, and 100% mozzarella cheese. Even the meat and vegetables for our pizza toppings are sourced according to specifications," she says.

"Although this outlet in Berjaya Times Square is barely a year old, Papa John's has been extremely popular with locals. Come Dec 17, we'll open the fifth Papa John's in Aeon Bandaraya Malacca," she adds.



The spicy chicken skewers.

Papa John's offers 14 types of pizzas with a choice of hand-tossed original or thin crust. One of the "must-haves" is the Super Papa's pizza which is laden with beef pepperoni slices, Italian beef sausage, chicken roll, fresh mushroom, green peppers, black olives and mozzarella cheese. We opted for the thin crust base, and the pizza was superbly flavourful to the last crumb.

"Diners who eschew beef can enjoy the Chicken Super Papa's; it's a special variant that we've developed only for the Malaysian market," says Lee.

Each pizza is always complemented by its famed signature Garlic Dipping Sauce and Peppercini (pickled green-yellow peppers). The former is ideal for dipping the pizza crust in or to drizzle over your pizzas to give it a subtle buttery, garlicky accent.

The latter might be something of an acquired taste but I loved the pickled peppers' briny zestiness and acidity as they helped to balance the various toppings' cloying richness.

In conjunction with the year-end festivities, Papa John's will introduce a Meatballs Pizza. Made with succulent minced beef and Italian seasonings, the meatballs are sliced and used as pizza topping alongside sliced onion, pepperoni, jalapeno peppers and a generous helping of mozzarella. This time, we settled for the trademark original crust which had the right amount of thickness — a balanced mixture of breadly softness and crisp crunchiness.

You can relish more of the delectable meatballs in the special dish of Baked Meatballs with your choice of beef bolognaise or creamy alfredo sauce and melted mozzarella. Having sampled the former, we found the thick, hearty sauce piquant with aromatic herbs.

For something different, try Calzone — a folded pizza that resembles a giant curry puff with either Pepperoni and Mushroom or Chicken and Mushroom filling.



Papa John's Pizza

The restaurant's pasta and rice dishes such as Beef Balls Bolognaise, Seafood Deluxe Baked Pasta and Chicken & Mushroom Baked Rice should appease the young and young-at-heart.

The Papa's Platter comprising Potato Wedges, Onion Rings, Sweet & Spicy Chicken Wings and Spicy Chicken Skewers comes highly recommended. It helps keep hunger pangs at bay while you wait for your pizzas to be ready.

Lee informs us that the Chicken Wings and Spicy Chicken Skewers were created for Papa John's outlets in China.

"In China, the chicken wings come with a sweet sour sauce but we've adapted the recipe to make it sweet and spicy for the local market. Our chicken skewers have also been a big hit as many diners can't get enough of its spiciness."

You can always cool things down with Papa John's Glitter Coolers — its festive range of floats, soda, fruit punch and sundaes. Beginning Dec 2009, any Papa John's delivery orders of RM30 and above will get a free 1.5 litre bottle of 100 Plus.

"Papa John's pizza gift certificates, which come in booklets of five each in RM10 denomination, make great gifts" says Lee.

Papa John's Pizza
Ground Floor
Berjaya Times Square
Jalan Imbi, Kuala Lumpur
Tel: +603-21417272
www.papajohns.com.my

Branches:

- 1) Ground Floor, IOI Mall Puchong, Selangor
- 2) Oasis Bouvelard, Sunway Pyramid, Subang, Selangor
- 3) Aeon Bukit Tinggi, Klang Selangor
- 4) Aeon Bandaraya Malacca

Delivery and take-out: 1300887272

> Citibank credit card holders are entitled to 50% off Papa John's Choice Pizzas (Super Papa's, Pepperoni Pizzazz, Papa's Special, Mexican Ole and Zesty Chicken) for dine-in from now until Jan 31, 2010 except on the eve of and public holidays. The offer is applicable for the 9-in à la carte original pizza only and is not valid for set meals, on-going promotions and discounts. Other terms and conditions apply.

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