

The Cottage
360 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10024

Best Chinese Food on the Upper West Side

This guy I know from the bar I hang out at offered me a dumpling one day. I tasted it and could not get over how good it was. “What are these?” I begged of him. “Where did you get these?” They were seafood dumplings in spicy Szechuan sauce from The Cottage, a Chinese restaurant located in the heart of Manhattan’s Upper West Side. I made a mental note to try this restaurant. I finally went with my friend Arlene. It was a great lunch.

We started with the aforementioned seafood dumplings. For \$5.50, you get twelve of these delicate creations in the most sublime sesame sauce I have ever tasted. Spicy, rich, and loaded with scallions, which I love, the sauce was so good, we insisted on keeping the bowl on the table to pour on our rice later on.

For my entrée, I had shredded pork with garlic sauce. I love very spicy food and The Cottage does not need to be told to lay on the heat. The dish was very hot and contained real slices of fresh garlic, something you usually do not see in garlic sauce dishes. Arlene had the basil chicken, which she liked, but I am not a fan of basil in Chinese food (marina sauce, definitely, but not Chinese). Both entrees came with soup – I had the hot and sour, which was excellent and, like the dumpling sauce, loaded with scallions.

The restaurant is small but comfortable. The service is fine – not particularly friendly or warm, but not objectionable by any means. And if the food doesn’t put a smile on your face, the check will. An order of dumplings and two entrees with tax and tip came to a total of \$22.00. It was a lot of food and it was delicious.

Even if you do not frequent the Upper West Side, make a special trip and try The Cottage.

