

Spice  
199 Eighth Avenue (at West 20<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York, NY 10011-1605

### **Spice Is Nice**

I admit that I could probably eat Chinese food every night and not tire of it. Years ago, I tried Thai food for the first time and hated it. Everything sounded nice on the menu, kinda Chinesey, but the flavor tasted as if the food was cooked in a dirt hole in Cambodia. Either my palate has matured or Thai food has changed, for I now think it is quite good, especially at Spice, a chain of Thai restaurants in Manhattan that are sleek and boast some great dishes.

I have been to the Eighth Avenue location a few times. It fills up during lunchtime, so try to arrive as close to noon as possible if you don't want to wait for a table. Their \$8.50 lunch special is a steal. You get a choice of appetizer and a main course. The selections are varied and delicious.

For a starter, try the crispy spring rolls made with carrot, cabbage, and vermicelli in a mustard-lime sauce or the duck wrap with Napa cabbage, carrot, celery, peanut, and sweet radish with a soy Hoisin sauce. Pad Thai is about as classic a Thai dish as you can find and they do it justice here. My friend had the basil chicken, which she liked. I thought it was okay – I am just not a fan of this particular dish. A nice breast of teriyaki marinated chicken with broccoli, green beans, and mushrooms served with brown rice was fresh and light yet very gratifying.

If there is a theme to Spice, it is beautifully presented food that has a clean, dare I say healthy taste that is refreshing and satisfying.

Click below for more info:

<http://www.spicethainyc.com/spice/>

