

CRITIC'S CHOICE



ORIENTAL EAST

Silver Spring

Best known for extravagant Cantonese dim sum brunches featuring shrimp every which way (salted and spiced, stuffed in eggplant, spilling from dumplings, and in mini egg rolls), this bright dining room has much to recommend it later in the day, too. Regulars go for such plates as salty spicy pork chops, Cantonese-style seafood chow mein, and lobster with ginger and spring onion. This is also a good place to reacquaint yourself with the pleasures of Peking duck or Mongolian lamb.

If the regular menu is not as adventurous as, say, the one at Hollywood East, dim sum is a different story. There you'll find exotica like beef tripe in black-bean sauce and pork and preserved-egg congee, along with more-eater-friendly stars like sweet rice with bits of smoky Chinese sausage, shiny roast-pork buns, and taro dumplings.

Oriental East, 1312 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring; 301-608-0030.