



Catch a tram to some of Hong Kong's top gourmet stops.

Happy dining in the valley

There's much more than ding dings and horse racing to Hong Kong's cheeriest vale. [Kate Farr & Rachel Read](#) sniff out Happy Valley's tastiest eateries.

Dim sum delights

If you prefer siu mai to scones with your afternoon tea, then **Dim Sum, The Art of Chinese Tidbits** is for you. It has been based in the same spot for nearly 25 years and everything about this yum cha joint - from its art deco-inspired interior to the long queues that snake down Sing Woo Road every weekend - makes for a unique experience. The food is every bit as memorable; classics

like spring rolls, har gau and char siu bao come perfectly executed without a hint of MSG, making them suitable for the whole family. The restaurant is open weekdays from 11am-11pm, or 10.30am-11pm at weekends (closed daily between 4.30 and 6pm), but we recommend swerving the scrum by dining mid-week.

G/F, 63 Sing Woo Road, Happy Valley, 2834 8893, dim-sum.hk.

Spice it up

Can you take the heat? The Michelin-starred **Golden Valley** sits on the first floor of The Emperor Hotel and with its traditional decor and relaxed ambience, makes a pleasant change of pace compare to the usual rowdy Chinese banquet restaurants. Whilst it dishes up great quality dim sum during the day, it's Golden Valley's sizzling Sichuan cuisine that really has us coming back for more

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French brasserie-style dining at Saint Germain.

- try the poached fish in hot chilli oil for a tastebud-tingling hit of numbing mala spice. Alternatively, opt for a hot-pot to cook your choice of meat and veg with a mix-your-own dipping sauce; the yin-yang style pot means you can have both a fiery Sichuan broth and more mellow chicken soup base bubbling away at once, pleasing all family member's palates.

**1/F, The Emperor (Happy Valley) Hotel,
1 Wang Tak Street, Happy Valley,
2961 3330, emperorhotel.com.hk.**

Our daily bread

As befits a locale with a well-established French community, **Maison Eric Kayser** brings four generations of boulangerie expertise to the heart of Hong Kong. Specialising in French bread, cakes and pastries, the bakery's enduringly popular croissants have won awards in Paris, Singapore, Tokyo and New York, so you'll need to be up early to snag yours. In addition to the bakery, which also sells coffee-to-go, Maison Eric Kayser also has a light and airy

cafe space, giving you the opportunity to linger over your latte with a freshly baked tart, delicate macaron or indulgent slice of cake. The perfect spot for early risers, grab your morning pain from 7.30 every day.

**60 Ventris Road, Happy Valley, 3107 0008,
maison-kayser.com.hk.**

Paris match

Another hint of the Valley's French influence lies within the bar-brasserie **Saint Germain**. Situated directly opposite Happy Valley's famous racecourse, this chic little Parisian eatery is a relaxed location for a convivial glass of wine with friends. The bar menu includes authentically French tipples such as calvados and pastis, an extensive list of regional wines, and a weekday happy hour that includes two-for-one champagne. Soak up your libations with a traditional menu that features escargots, coq au vin, or opt for bar nibbles including cold cuts, terrine or classic croques monsieur.

**G/F, 1A Wong Nai Chung Road,
Happy Valley, 2836 6131,
french-creations.com/saint-germain.**



Award winning croissants from Maison Eric Kayser.

Market fresh

Plastic stools, bin bag tablecloths, bowls to clean your own cutlery - eating in a wet market is definitely not an experience for the prim and proper - but you don't get much more uniquely Hong Kong than this. Located on the second floor of Happy Valley's **Cooked Food Centre**, Gi Kee delivers delicious, reasonably priced Cantonese cuisine that has made them something of a favourite in local celebrity circles. Fresh seafood, which you can pick yourself (still swimming) from the restaurant's tanks, is a speciality; baby clams in black bean sauce and steamed scallops with garlic, spring

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Senior School Development Officer
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Julie Wong,
ESF Admissions Manager

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onion and vermicelli are always winners. However their most famous dish has to be the garlic chicken - juicy, tender fried chicken topped with liberal amounts of golden crunchy garlic... now that's finger-lickin' good.

**Shop 4, Cooked Food Centre,
2/F, Wong Nai Chung Municipal Services
Building, 2 Yuk Sau Street, Happy Valley,
2574 9937.**



Sichuan favourites at Michelin-starred Golden Valley.

Old-school sophistication

A stalwart of the Hong Kong dining scene for almost 50 years, **Amigo's** retro grandeur has a charm all of its own. The setting is part antique-stuffed Bavarian castle, part Downton Abbey-esque mansion; the waiters (many of whom have been around for as long as the restaurant itself) are white-gloved and coat-tailed; the food is classical French, with cherry stone clam chowder and beef tenderloin

with goose liver some of their best-loved signatures. Just in case you were in any doubt that this is a "special occasion" kind of joint, each diner is given a notepad custom-embossed with their name, there's a live band playing songs on request, and every lady guest receives a red rose before she leaves - they just don't make 'em like this anymore.

Amigo Mansion, 79A Wong Nai Chung Road, Happy Valley, 2577 2202, amigo.com.hk.

Hong Kong hideaway

For a freshly baked pineapple bun and hot cup of milk tea that comes with a side serving of Hong Kong history, the iconic **Cheung Hing Coffee Stop** is a must-visit. This old-school cha chaan teng has been going in various iterations for over 50 years, but its current incarnation - with lovingly restored original furniture fittings and in-house baker sifus - might just be the best yet. Dishing up all the classic cha chaan teng staples, from egg tarts and HK-style French toast to spam macaroni and beef brisket noodles, this is the perfect venue for a mid-morning or afternoon pit-stop. **9 Yik Yam Street, Happy Valley, 2572 5097.**

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