

## SINH SINH

9788 Bellaire Blvd. Houston 77036 713.541.2888

Be REAL hungry when you go to Sinh Sinh just inside the Beltway on Bellaire Blvd, because there are 190 Chinese and Vietnamese items on the menu. The portions are huge, the food is fresh, the flavors are delicious, and the prices are good. Once you get past the large fish, clam, lobster, and prawn tanks at the entrance, you will notice the 'barbecue' section, which is the exclusive domain of large glistening dark maroon-colored Peking ducks, which are hanging dutifully on hooks waiting to be cleaved into bite-sized portions on large platters. Be sure the hostess gives you the 'regular' menu, and NOT the short version intended for finicky non-Asian diners! Following is a sample of menu items, which for reasons of space appear without further comment: Roasted duck wonton noodle soup, Sate beef in rice noodle soup, Crab meat asparagus soup, Pork ribs and sour vegetable soup, Ginger and scallion beef, Sweet and sour whole fish, Steamed lobster with garlic, Dungeness crab with beer and black pepper, Baked soft shell crab with butter and black pepper, Salt baked chicken, Roasted duck (half), Stir fried scallop with walnut, Salt toasted shrimp, Black pepper beef ribs sizzling, Spicy Dungeness crab clay pot, Lobster combination hot pot, Vermicelli with grilled pork, Catfish hot pot, Snow peas with crab meat, Stir fried eggplant stuffed with shrimp, and many, many more!

## BUDDHA LOUNGE

2670 Sage Road Houston 77056 713.392.4502

The Buddha Lounge, located on Sage Road just opposite the western entrance to Macy's, is a cool hangout for the after-work crowd, or a hip hangout for the later crowd. Downstairs is the main bar, with sofa seating or bar stools, all of which are dominated by awesome carved Buddhas perched around the room. A side stairway grandly leads up to the second floor, where another bar and an intimate room for private parties is located. Eclectic music throbs throughout, and lights are dim. This spot is walking distance (across the street) from the Galleria, but is remote and private in time and feeling. It is available for meetings of business and social groups, and owner / partner Brent Dickey is eager to please.

## TASTING ROOM WINE CAFE

1101 Uptown Park Houston 713.528.WINE (9463)

This quietly elegant little spot is in pleasing contrast to some of the brassier establishments in Uptown Park. A surprisingly large wine by the glass and by the bottle list is available at competitive prices, AND there is a nice selection of platters and small personal pizzas to accompany the wine, which is King here. Charcuterie plates with choice of Merguez lamb sausage, chicken portobello sausage, Spanish chorizo, Jamon de Serrano, smoked duck breast, or Cacciatore salame are available, as are pate plates, tomatoes and basil, and a build-your-own antipasto plate. Wonderful cheese boards and a good selection of olives, almonds, and mushrooms are available to be washed down with the delectable wines. This is a great little spot where you can hang out with friends, chat, and relax.

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*Note: By way of qualifications for reviewing restaurants, Hankamer has owned and operated numerous restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, discotheques and banquet halls over the last forty years; he has travelled to over 70 countries and has studied and lived in Europe for over three years; he was co-owner of a home delivery wine of the month club and imported his own wine labels for years.*

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