

# Tasty Thai in Towson

*While the building is easy to miss, Spice and Dice's food is hard to forget.*

*by Kathy Wielech Patterson and Neal Patterson  
Community contributors*

Folks probably drive past the Radio Park office building on Joppa Road on a regular basis without realizing there's a Thai restaurant in the middle of it, especially with the distraction of colorful chain restaurants across the road. And it's a good Thai restaurant at that.

Spice and Dice opened in 2011. Back then, it shared a space with the comic book store next door, and the restaurant's youthful decor reflected it. The spaces are separated now, and while Spice and Dice's interior is still on the whimsical side, they serve up the same tasty dishes redolent of lemongrass and Thai basil as they ever have.

Order a Thai iced tea or coffee and sip the sweet creamy beverage as you peruse the menu. There's a huge selection of

appetizers, most on the traditional side of things like the lab gai (minced chicken in a spicy lime dressing), tom sum (green papaya salad) and fish cakes with a sweet chili dipping sauce. There's also the more unusual "cheesy rolls," spring rolls filled with potatoes and cheese. The "happy calamari" are crisp/chewy curls of fried squid served with both chili mayo and sweet chili dipping sauces. Similarly "happy" are deep fried cubes of tofu, a snack that can be quite addictive.

It's easy to make a meal out of several of these items, but there's plenty more on the menu that shouldn't be missed.

Most Thai restaurants sweeten up their dishes to make the heat from the chiles more palatable for American tastes, and that's true of Spice and Dice. But if you want something on the more aromatic side, try the jungle curry, which is flavored with galangal and ginger and skips the coconut milk that makes other Thai curries sweet.

Most of the entrées come with your choice of protein (chicken, pork, beef, shrimp, squid, tofu) or none at all. A nice combination of flavors and textures come from pairing toothsome small shrimp with meltingly tender eggplant in a spicy basil sauce. And while the menu does call several dishes "spicy" and ornaments its listings with a red chile pepper symbol, we've found everything to be mild for our palates. If you want genuinely spicy, ask for it.

## BY THE NUMBERS Spice and Dice in Towson

YEAR

**2011**

Restaurant Spice and Dice opens.

ADDRESS

**1220**

E. Joppa Road, No. 108, in Towson.

THURSDAYS

**6 PM**

Live jazz by the Daruma Trio.

DRINKS

**0**

Spice and Dice is BYOB.

## DELICIOUS TUNES

### Food and Music for All Tastes

Individuals with dietary restrictions, like vegans or those with a gluten intolerance, will be happy to know that most of the dishes at Spice and Dice can be made to suit their needs. And they can leave the peanuts off for those with nut allergies, too. Spice and Dice is BYOB. On Thursday nights, there's live jazz starting at 6 p.m., and reservations are suggested. It's also a good idea to make a reservation for dining on Friday or Saturday evenings.

Kathy Wielech Patterson and Neal Patterson are food bloggers and the authors of "Food Lovers' Guide to Baltimore." For more info, check out [minxeats.com](http://minxeats.com).



Try the "happy calamari" with sweet chili sauce and chili mayo at Spice and Dice.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Wielech Patterson

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