

Come for the sushi and noodles, leave room for dessert



Reviewed by Jonah Schrogin and Sabrina Gowette

If you're looking for a laid-back, friendly atmosphere and inexpensive menu options, Sakura Japanese Restaurant is the place to eat. Sakura is located right next to campus at 844 E. 13th St. across from the University Bookstore. Upon entering, we were greeted with the sound of mellow background music as we sat ourselves at a table lit by tea light candles. The walls and menus are adorned with art created by manager Tak Kishino, making for a personal touch. If you are curious about what you ordered and how it is prepared, you can sit at the bar and watch the cooks prepare your meal. The service was prompt and our soups and appetizers arrived quickly with our main dishes following shortly after.

Sakura specializes in sushi and noodle dishes. Their California rolls, made with seaweed, crab, avocado and cucumber, were excellent. We also had the unagi (eel), tuna, and deep-fried tofu sushi, which was tasty as well. For our main dishes, we ordered vegetable Yakisoba with chicken and spicy chicken with rice. The vegetables and noodles in the Yakisoba dish were delicious with a zesty sauce that added flavor. Be aware, however, the spicy chicken is not for those with weak stomachs as it is extremely spicy. Needless to say, we needed many drink refills. Many of the entrees, such as the spicy chicken, come in considerably large portions and are accompanied by a side of rice and Miso soup.

If you have room for dessert, we recommend the Moshi green tea ice cream. This scrumptious treat is a soft and chewy ball of ice cream wrapped in a rice patty. Although it is small, we thought this authentic dessert hit the spot.

Sakura is a great place for someone on a budget looking for quality Japanese food as most meals are under \$8. Sakura is open Monday-Friday 9am-9pm, Saturday 12pm-10pm and closed on Sunday. If you have any questions or would like to order food to-go, give them a call at 343-6817.

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