

Napoli's scrumptuous spaghetti and meatballs.



**TOSHI'S RAMEN:  
Where Noodles Began**

The choices spread before you on the Toshi's menu seem overwhelming at first, but there is rhyme and reason to be found. Ramen bowls make the basis of your choices here, though many stop in just for the Goyza (pot stickers with veggies and ground pork), or the Teriyaki Chicken. But if there's another place in town where you can choose between more than thirty variations on the ramen theme, I haven't found it yet.

The variables are not as many as the first glance would lead you to think. Four different stocks form the bases, Shio (salt), Shoyu (soy sauce), Miso and Vegetarian Miso. From there, the garnishes range from marinated sliced pork to veggies to seaweed and butter. Truly any flavor can be yours for the sipping. The first time I went in, sensory overload struck, and I simply asked the counterperson for a recommendation. She pointed me to the Miso Original, vegetarian style, \$6. Soon the steaming bowl arrived on my table, bigger than my head and intoxicatingly fragrant. The bean sprouts, corn and bamboo shoots on top were covered with a swirl of

**Use Your Noodle**

THERE'S PLENTY OF PERFECT PASTA IN TOWN. By Marina Taylor

Noodles are a perfect comfort food. So quick and easy to prepare, noodles are peasant food, simple and satisfying, a no-frills filler of bellies. When the kitchen is bare, noodles and olive oil can save you, and when the occasion calls for something special, noodles can easily be a base for great cuisine. When noodles transcend their simplicity, the real magic begins. Several Eugene kitchens are host to noodle magicians, and the three here are remarkable.



Toshi Ishibashi  
of Toshi's Ramen.

*"The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it."*  
— OSCAR WILDE

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