

Sensational Springvale

FOOD TOURS

"FOR ME, COOKING has always been about the sharing of food. It's about the anticipation of sitting down together and having quality time to talk and share a meal". These humble words are from Angie Chong, daughter of Chinese cooking legend Elizabeth Chong and granddaughter to pioneering and dim-sim inventor William Wing Young.

Angie has owned a restaurant as well as a garden design and construction business, where planting vegies were always an integral part of the design. Angie established Victoria's first fully accredited Professional Asian Cookery course at William Angliss Institute of TAFE where she taught for nearly 20 years. Today she runs her own dumpling workshop business 'The Humble Dumpling'.

With a strong food background and cultural heritage steeped in food traditions, it's no wonder Angie will now be adding Tour Guide to her resume. Angie is going to host 'Sensational Springvale Food Tours' with support from the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD).

We recently caught up with Angie to find out what inspires her cooking, what she likes to cook at home and find out more about the Sensational Springvale Food Tours.

CGD: What draws you to Springvale?

Angie Chong: The discovery of so many new places to visit. You have many restaurants, new businesses and diversity of cultures – Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian and much more. It's exciting from the fresh food places, to cafes and restaurants, tea shops and traditional medicine shops, so much choice!

What is it about Springvale? I love all of it, but particularly the fresh food. Of course all the different cafes and restaurants are exceptional and great value. You get the feeling you've travelled across the seas and landed in Asia. It feels, smells, tastes and looks just like Asia.

Since the time of your mother's initial tours in Springvale many years ago, how have you seen Springvale change?

It's definitely bigger and better. There's so much more choice in fresh food as well as places to sit down and eat. There's been a lot of building development as well.

What advice can you offer to first time visitors to Springvale? It's busy and bustling, but take your time to browse, explore and see what's there. Try something

new and different to take home and find yourself a great place to stop and eat.

What should people expect when they attend the Sensational Springvale Food Tour? An informative and comprehensive discovery of one of Melbourne's oldest and most exciting Asian Food precincts.

Where does your inspiration for your cooking come from? Family and friends.

What do you cook at home?

I love simple home-style Chinese food, the food my mum cooked for me. It's the food I grew up on. This might be rice, soup, steamed fish and lots of vegies. When I'm cooking for family and friends, I love to mix it up by cooking Asian, Italian, Middle Eastern or anything in between. Last week my friend from Puerto Rico made tortillas and I made a stirfry. That was the first time I have ever had a stirfry Tortilla!

Your dream meal – maybe your last meal? Goodness me! Could it be a meal that never ended – a tasting of all my favourite dishes. It's more about who I would rather share my meal with, than what I would choose to eat.

Sensational Springvale
World food is closer than you think

Greater Dandenong
GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

greaterdandenong.com