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CARRIED AWAY

Quick review of local carryout

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Joey Chang's

3799 Ridge Mill Dr .

614-777-0550

Nestled in the back of Hilliard's Mill Run shopping complex, Joey Chang's offers Chinese takeout staples with a few Thai dishes. A detailed Web site — www.joeychangs.com — complete with a seven-page menu and driving directions, makes a spur-of-the-moment take-out dinner a snap.

The crispy spring roll (\$1.95) is stuffed with pork, shrimp and vegetables; the light, crispy shell is fried to perfection without being too greasy.

For an unusual appetizer that pleases the eye and palate, try the ka-thong tong (\$5.95), six delicate rice pastry cups filled with finely chopped coconutflavored chicken and ground peanuts. Tiny lime wedges and cilantro sprigs add a burst of freshness to this sweet-spicy dish.

We sampled hot-and-sour and won ton soups (\$2.95), both doled out in larger-than-normal portions. The hot-and-sour soup was thick with chicken, tofu and bamboo shoots in a rich, spicy chicken

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broth. The won ton soup featured two sizable dumplings as well as tiny shrimp and shredded cabbage.

Joey Chang's versions of these two staple soups are among the best we've tried; neither tasted too salty. Avocado chicken (\$11.95) featured melt-in-the-mouth avocado chunks and succulent chicken drenched in a Thai green curry sauce. The menu described the sauce as hot, but we found it quite mild and delicious. Grand Marnier shrimp, (\$14.95) with its crispy jumbo shrimp, tasted citrusy and sweet but not cloying. The Grand Marnier sauce, served on the side, tasted of fresh oranges, a flavor augmented by the orange slices and grated orange peel that garnished the dish. Joey Chang's staff expertly packed our appetizers, soups and entrees in labeled, clearlidded containers, eliminating guesswork at home. Beware that only dinnersized portions can be ordered after 3:30 p.m. — Renee M. LaReau For The Dispatch



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