

The deliciousness has landed: AirAsia opens restaurant serving inflight meals

Monday, 02 Dec 2019

2:06 PM MYT

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Air Asia offers a wide variety of dishes in their inflight menu.

KUALA LUMPUR: Foodies now no longer have to wait until they board an AirAsia flight to get a taste of the airline's hot sellers such as Pak Nasser's Nasi Lemak or Uncle Chin's Chicken Rice.

AirAsia's famous inflight meals and other Asean delights are now available at Santan Restaurant and T&CO Cafe - the airline's first fast food joint in the Asean region - at Mid Valley Megamall here.

The restaurant and cafe will open its doors to the public on Tuesday (Dec 3), offering meals from AirAsia's inflight menu brand Santan and T&CO, with its popular rice and noodles meals, priced at only RM12.

Besides Pak Nasser's Nasi Lemak and Uncle Chin's Chicken Rice, Asean inspired dishes such as Cambodia's Pineapple Fish Noodle and Chicken Inasal with Garlic Rice from the Philippines, are also available.

The restaurant and cafe also offers Asean-sourced coffee and tea, snacks and desserts, inspired by local flavours such as the Nasi Lemak Quinoa Wrap and Onde-Onde Cake.

Customers can order ahead online from the comfort of their own homes at santan.com.my or the T&CO mobile app before collecting their orders at the outlet.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, who launched the outlet, expressed confidence in AirAsia's latest initiative and praised its adoption of technology to maximise customer satisfaction.

"I was interested in the fact that the restaurant and cafe has leveraged on IT, allowing orders to be made in advance so that customers can spend more time enjoying the food than waiting for it to arrive," he said in his speech on Monday (Dec 2).

Santan Restaurant and T&CO Cafe general manager Catherine Goh said their aim was to have five restaurants by the end of 2020 and 100 franchise-operated restaurants and cafes within the next three to five years with expansions in global markets.

"We have seen a significant appetite for our inflight menu, offerings beyond our flights across the region and this is our answer to that demand.

"We are very proud to extend what started out as an inflight menu into new markets and reiterate our support for local and Asean producers and suppliers, apart from creating new job opportunities with affordable franchising," she said.

AirAsia Group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes said the airline has plans to open its fast-food restaurant in culinary hotspots such as London and New York, besides other Asean countries.

He said a franchise would also be opened in China soon, without elaborating on the exact location or time frame.

"We wanted to be a lifestyle brand and not just an airline brand. We can't be a lifestyle brand without food.

"Our airline food has been successful and we are the first airline ever to commercialise our food," he said. He added that there were plans to come up with AirAsia's own food delivery app in keeping up with the times, as well as plans to work with existing companies such as Grab and Foodpanda.

Also present were AirAsia Group executive chairman Datuk Kamarudin Meranun and AirAsia Group president (RedBeat Ventures) Aireen Omar.

To celebrate the opening of the flagship restaurant, Santan is offering customers a limited-time promotion online to enjoy Pak Nasser's Nasi Lemak with Chicken Rendang for only RM5.

This is exclusively available for online order only at santan.com.my for one order per checkout. Log-in to your BIG Member to use the promo code: SANTANRM5

Meanwhile, for T&CO, enjoy free coffee with every T&CO mobile app download on Apple Store and Google Play.

This applies to one order per BIG Member ID.

Log-in to your BIG Member to use promo code: **TCOFREECOFFEE**

Read more at <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/12/02/the-deliciousness-has-landed-airasia-opens-restaurant-serving-inflight-meals#j04ytUBAyRrr3SXl.99>