

Bronte strip goes Japanese, sprouting a modern Bonsai

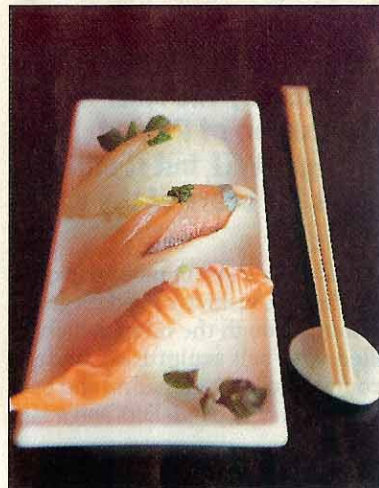
Bonsai 467 Bronte Rd, Bronte Beach. Phone 9386 5666
Open for dinner Monday to Saturday from 6pm
Entrees \$9 - \$18, Mains \$22 - \$30
Desserts \$10

By Jordanna Levin, Bondi

The latest addition to the Bronte strip is Bonsai, a modern Japanese dining experience.

With an interior of dark timber furniture set off by a prominent red feature wall and lighting supplied by a bamboo sculpture in the centre of the room, the atmosphere is incredibly inviting, something many Japanese restaurants often lack.

The menu offers the expected Japanese favourites such as Agedashi tofu, sashimi and the grilled yakitori chicken, but it was the fusion dishes created by head chef Daud Kendall that made Bonsai a unique dining



Tempura and sushi are presented beautifully at Bonsai on Bronte Rd.

experience.

The presentation of the dishes was spectacular and at times I regretted having to destroy the detail that had gone into its arrangement.

The entree of rare tuna and av-

ocado salad was delicious, as was the Agedashi tofu. As many of the entrees were quite large servings, I would recommend ordering a few dishes from the diverse menu to share with fellow diners.

For mains I would suggest the same dining principle as with the entrees, but I would be adamant in telling you to order the seared scallop with twice cooked beef, enoki mushroom salad and soy mustard dressing. It was like nothing I've ever tasted before and was a credit to Mr Kendall.

While most dishes are cooked in the kitchen, the sushi is prepared in the bar at the rear of the restaurant, and I found myself enthralled by its skillful preparation.

Complementing the fine cuisine is a limited, but well-formed, list of selected wines, sake and Japanese themed cocktails.

Bonsai is an asset to the famous Bronte restaurant strip, and is definitely worth sampling if you are a fan of modern Japanese fare.

With the same owners as its neighbour Swell, Bonsai is sure to retain its current popularity.