

City Beat Cuisine

A Sweet, Savory Pancake Break

Sylviana Hamdani

It was a gloomy Jakarta Sunday, with dark clouds hanging low and stories of natural disasters flooding the news. With not much to smile about, my partner and I decided to fill up on fluffy pancakes before the start of another grueling workweek.

My Pancake restaurant, located on the sky bridge of Grand Indonesia shopping center, has cozy indoor and outdoor dining areas, a nice decor and panoramic views of the city. The area situated outside the restaurant, along the glass-walled sky bridge, features rows of tables under red parasols that offer a bird's-eye view of the busy street below. It's all capped off with a gurgling water fountain and a large windmill that churns lazily overhead. The day my partner and I visited the restaurant, numerous couples and families were posing for photos in front of the fountain.

Despite the upscale setting, the restaurant's service was lackluster. After greeting us briefly at the front door, a tired-faced trainee ushered us to our seats. Unceremoniously, she handed us the menu and left without making any suggestions.

We decided to order the prettiest pancake dishes on the menu, which happened to be the Hot and Fluffy Pancake and the Blueberry Cool Pancake.

Our carbohydrate feast came with an elaborate presentation. My Hot and Fluffy Pancake was drizzled with hot chocolate sauce and served with walnuts, grilled banana and a chocolate wafer stick balanced precariously on top of a scoop of ice cream. The delightfully soft dough was enhanced by the bittersweet flavor of the chocolate.

My partner's Blueberry Cool Pancake



My Pancake
Grand Indonesia
Sky Bridge Level
3A, Jl. MH Thamrin
Central Jakarta
Tel: 021 2358 0095

Pancious Pancake House
Plaza Indonesia
Level 5
Jl. MH Thamrin
Central Jakarta
Tel: 021 390 6817

was served sprinkled with dark, purple blueberries and smothered by a river of blueberry sauce that flowed down from a topping of vanilla ice cream. The sweetness of the pancake and ice cream went well with the tart flavor of the blueberries.

Besides pancakes, the restaurant also offers a rich variety of rice dishes, salads, appetizers, pasta, steaks and desserts.

The menu also features a wide range of beverages including soft drinks, coffee, tea, frozen yogurt drinks, juices and mocktails.

We were actually ready to order some mocktails, but the waiters were nowhere to be seen, so we occupied ourselves by taking a few photos by the fountain and then called it a day.

Another restaurant specializing in pancakes is Pancious Pancake House,



Above: Pancious Pancake House's Beef and Blue Cheese Pancake in all its savory glory. Left: My Pancake's Hot and Fluffy Pancake has a topping of vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce, nuts and a roasted banana. JG Photos

located in Plaza Indonesia, just across the street from Grand Indonesia.

Dubbed the first pancake house in the country, the restaurant, which opened in 2007 in Permata Hijau, Jakarta, now operates five other branches in the city.

The design of the branch on the fifth level of Plaza Indonesia is somewhat reminiscent of a 1950's American diner with an open kitchen, plush red sofas and rows of simple polished wooden tables.

The restaurant introduces new items to the menu every year. This year, the new items were added under the theme "Nutty about Pancious" and highlight a range of classical American-style pancakes with sweet and nutty flavors.

Besides pancakes, the restaurant also offers a nice array of salads, burgers, pastas, desserts and drinks.

We ordered a savory Beef and Blue Cheese Pancake, which offered a rich combination of flavors. The savory beef patty married well with the melted blue cheese, which was nicely complimented by the sweet pancake. A serving of arugula and cherry tomatoes on the side offered a tart and refreshing contrast to the heaviness of the main course.

I'm a firm believer that no meal is complete without dessert and the Nutty Nutella Pancake looked too good to pass up. It arrived with a generous scoop of Nutella and another scoop of vanilla ice cream on a warm, fluffy pancake.

A fresh lemonade and kiwi juice completed the dining experience perfectly. Spiked with soda, the drink refreshed our palates with each tangy sip. Feeling fully sated and at peace with the pancake gods, we were finally ready to face the workweek ahead.