

Chinese

19 Gale Bar & Restaurant

► **Location** 58 Halford Street, Leicester, LE1 1TQ
t: 0843 153 0618 **w:** www.19gale.co.uk

19 Gale Bar & Restaurant will redefine how you think about Chinese cuisine. With a refined yet relaxed atmosphere, knowledgeable staff and a jaw-droppingly innovative menu, this is a restaurant that excels in every way possible. Moreover, it does all of this with a graceful confidence that makes it all look very simple indeed.

My starter of soft-shell crab perfectly captured the straightforward elegance of the food served at 19 Gale. The three pieces of fried crab were placed on a banana leaf, which itself rested on a small black slate. Edible flower petals and spicy red salt were prettily scattered across the top. The whole effect was one of simplicity and balance. With the sublimely juicy crab as the undisputed star of the dish, the other ingredients were skilfully balanced to support and complement it perfectly.

The main course of venison with roasted vegetables was served in a more rustic but pleasingly dramatic way; its juices were still sizzling and popping on the hot griddle on which it was cooked. The primary flavours of delicately earthy venison, sweet, smoky peppers and warm peppercorns combined to create a delicious, moreish dish.

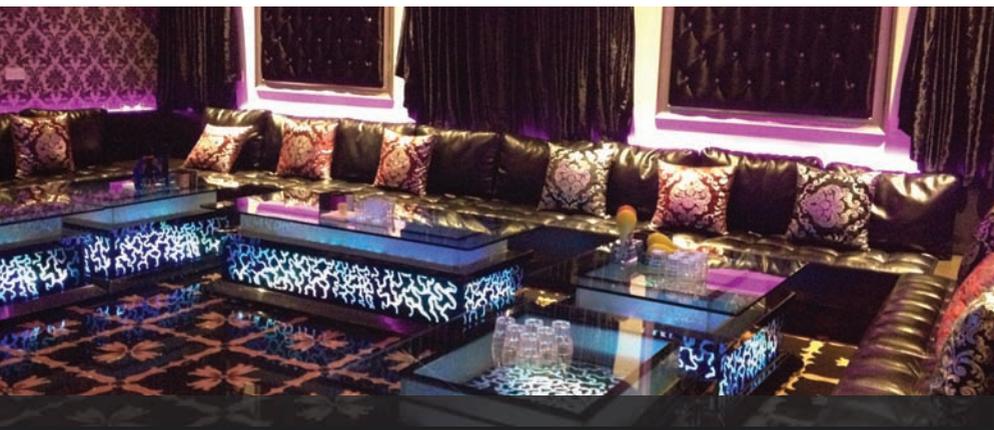
The interior of the restaurant succeeds in being imposing without feeling intimidating. The clever use of split levels and generously spaced tables creates an intimate atmosphere while maintaining the sense of grandeur provided by the lofty ceilings, ornate chandeliers and luxurious decor.

Each member of the waiting staff at 19 Gale displays passion for and knowledge of the restaurant's varied and innovative menu. If you're unsure what to order from the ever-changing selection of authentic Chinese and Japanese dishes, or you have a special dietary requirement, you will be in safe hands. I can't wait to return to sample more of the extensive sushi menu and to try more of the unusual traditional Chinese dishes on offer.

Also worth returning for is 19 Gale's series of 11 stunning private function rooms. Each is individually decorated to suit all tastes and designed to accommodate groups of all sizes, as well as being fully equipped with a modern karaoke system. Considering the pairing of this fun entertainment with the exceptionally good food in exquisite surroundings, it's fair to say that 19 Gale offers one seriously impressive package.



Open: Mon-Sun
 11.30am-2.30pm
 (last orders 2pm),
 5.30pm-11pm
 (last orders 10pm)



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£14 to £26