



Friendly staff welcome you into the traditionally decorated restaurant with its wooden elephants, statues of exotically dressed dancers, wall hangings and screens, making you feel like you have strayed into the finest of eateries in Bangkok itself. And the sweet smell of traditional spices and freshly cooked Thai food ensures you will be able to indulge to your hearts content.

Learning his trade in some of the top hotels in Thailand, Thai Chef's owner, Chang, opened what has become one of the most popular restaurants in Napier in 2001. With chef Kessaworn, and the rest of his kitchen staff, they develop the flavours of Thai food beyond the traditional. "We use traditional spices, such as chili, galangal and kaffir lime leaves, and then make our dishes a little bit special with our own concoction of Thai flavours," says Chang. "On top of that we use locally produced Hawke's Bay produce whenever we can to ensure the freshest of tastes."

**Award winning restaurant**

And it's not just Chang who thinks the food at the Thai Chef's Restaurant is a 'little bit special'. They have been awarded

the prestigious Thai Select Award by the Thai Government Department of Export Promotions for serving the highest standard of authentic Thai cuisine.

With appetisers to tempt, soups to satisfy, stir fried dishes to delight and curries to enchant you, the Thai Chef's Restaurant can offer all this and so much more. You'll want to return again and again to Chang's idyllic piece of Thailand on the outskirts of Napier. And the four chefs and 16 waiters and waitresses will look after your every need ensuring you are more than happy with the service and the quality of food you receive.

Chang is a busy man; following in the tremendous success of his restaurant in Napier he has opened one in Monganui and another in Wellington, frequented by the Thai Ambassador to New Zealand and used for consulate functions and entertaining Thai VIP's. A true testament to the quality and authenticity of food served by Chang and his team.

With satay chicken, Thai dim sum, marinated pork, Tom Yum soup, green, red and yellow curries, roasted duck, squid, scallops and tiger prawns all available to cater for any taste you are assured of finding plenty to choose from on the Thai Chef's extensive menu. And for those younger family

*Above: Busy Thai Chef owner Chang never sits down for long.*



# 'Very yum' restaurant

For lovers of oriental food there is no better place to satiate your desires than the Thai Chef's Restaurant on Taradale Road, Napier. From traditional Thai fare like green curry, noodles and stir fry, to more exotic and cheekily named signature dishes, such as Naughty Pig and Famous Chick, all tastes are catered for at Napier's top Thai restaurant.

editorial simon pearse / pictures lee warren



members with less adventurous taste buds there is even a kids menu, so everyone will leave satisfied.

You will also find eleven dishes described as 'Extraordinary'; eleven special dishes catering for a variety of tastes. Chang's favourite, which he describes as 'very yum,' is Spicy Girl with crispy pork, a medium spiced dish with tossed fresh chilies, garlic, onions, capsicum and seasonal vegetables.

## Catering for up to 140

Chang offers set meals for larger groups, banquet menus for four or more and can cater for work functions, recently having seated 110. The \$11 special lunch is a popular addition to the menu for shoppers, businessmen and those looking for something a little bit special in the middle of the day. And the new extension with its traditional water feature and climbing wall plants, enables the Thai Chef's Restaurant to now cater for 140 people while they are treated to the option of an out door dining experience.

Chang suggests booking for Saturday nights in his Napier Thai Chef's Restaurant as it is invariably packed out, a testament in itself to the fine culinary skills of Kessaworn, and his team. And

if you're reading this review in a hotel room in Napier, wishing you could join the throngs enjoying Napier's best Thai food, give them a ring - they will provide a courtesy bus to pick you up from your hotel and take you back again after your meal. They also provide a convenient and fast home delivery service throughout Napier.

With beers from Europe, New Zealand and Thailand to wet your palate, some top Hawke's Bay wines on offer and cocktails, the names of which may make you blush, adding to the spiciness of your experience at the Thai Chef's Restaurant, it is not just your culinary taste buds that will be satiated.

So don't delay, get down to the Thai Chef's Restaurant in Onekawa and taste the difference traditional Thai food mixed with a little innovation and freshest produce Hawke's Bay has to offer.

Chang's latest venture is on Napier's Marine Parade where his new restaurant Chai serves a wide variety of Asian dishes to the discerning residents of Napier and visitors alike.

Top: Senior chef Kessaworn with Chang. Culinary and visual delights abound at the Thai Chef.

120 Taradale Road, Onekawa  
[www.thaichef.co.nz](http://www.thaichef.co.nz)

