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# Chinese New Year - 2018 Year of the Dog



19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## Fabulous Facts

The first day of the New Year can normally fall on a new full moon between 21st January and 20<sup>th</sup> February.

The Chinese New Year festivities last until the Lantern Festival, which is on the 15th day of the first calendar month of the New Year. In 2018 will happen on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

The Chinese New Year is the longest holiday in the Chinese calendar and lasts for a week.

Chinese New Year has various symbols and traditions. For example, flowers are an important part of New Year decorations. Writings that refer to good luck are often seen in homes and business environments. They are usually written by brush on a diamond-shaped piece of red paper. Tangerines and oranges are also displayed in many homes and stores as a sign of luck and wealth.

Envelopes with money often come in the colour red, which symbolizes happiness, good luck, success and good fortune. These envelopes are mainly given as presents to children.

The Chinese New Year of the Dog is the 11th animal in the cycle. The recent Dog years are: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018. People born in the year of the Dog are meant to be true, honest, loyal and reliable.

Like in Western cultures, the Chinese also have 12 Zodiac signs, but rather than being for each month of the year, the Chinese Zodiacs represent each year in a 12-year cycle. The Chinese animal zodiacs are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig.

According to the myth, a Jade emperor decided that animals would be incorporated into the calendar and the first 12 who arrived at the palace would be chosen.

The Ox turned up first to the palace, but the Rat hopped onto the Ox's back and ran ahead.

The Cat was friends with the Rat and so asked to be reminded to go to the palace. However, the rat forgot and the two have been enemies ever since. .

In some stories, the animals had to cross a river. The Tiger got caught in strong currents and could only arrive before the emperor third. The Rabbit came fourth while the Dragon was fifth.

In one version, the Dog was angry with Rabbit and tried to bite him, an act for which he was sent to the back of the queue.

In another, the Dog came 11th because it wanted to stay in the river and play for a little bit longer.

## Chinese New Year Celebration Menu

Enjoy 2 courses for \$40 or 3 courses for \$50

### Entree

#### **Peking Duck Pancakes**

with cucumber, spring onion and hoi sin sauce

**OR**

#### **San Choy Bau**

pork mince with garlic, ginger, herbs and oyster sauce in a lettuce cup *(gf)*

### Main Course

#### **Sweet and Sour Chicken**

with pineapple, capsicum and onion, served with fried rice *(no seafood) (gf)*

**OR**

#### **Mongolian Lamb**

with served with fried rice *(no seafood) (gf)*

### Dessert

#### **Apple Fritters**

served with butterscotch sauce and Chantilly cream

**OR**

#### **Chinese Custard Tarts**

served with berries and Chantilly cream