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## TASTEMAKERS

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AN APPETITE FOR LIFE

NARRATIVES WITH THE TASTEMAKER

MADE-FROM-SCRATCH ATTITUDE











"My mum is my mentor, both in life and in my cooking, and until today, I find it hard not to celebrate my mum's deep-rooted influences in what I bring to the table."

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## AN APPETITE FOR LIFE

A native of Sarawak, Chef Leong has been a familiar figure of Luk Yu Tea House, instrumental in leading the Cantonese kitchen with the vibrancy in his food offering. When asked who inspired his dream to be a chef, he credits it to the matriarch of his family – his mum, who held the family together with her innovative recipes.

"Growing up, our dining table was never boring. Knowing how picky my siblings and I are, she's always looking for creative twists on traditional recipes to make us eat our vegetables. Observing and helping her in the kitchen have definitely left a lasting impact on how I understand ingredients and flavours – now, whenever I'm working on a new dish, I'd close my eyes and wonder what mum would add to this dish to make it loved by all," the chef fondly recalls with a smile on his face.

In pursuit of his aspirations at a young age of 19, Chef Leong decided to leave home and make the bold move across the coast to Kuala Lumpur for his culinary debut as he knew his real education in this industry would come by working under the tutelage of the best sifu in the bustling city's top Chinese restaurants.

NARRATIVES WITH THE TASTEMAKER



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## MADE-FROM-SCRATCH ATTITUDE

Now, even after working with numerous master chefs, his time helping out his mum in the kitchen at home continues to impact Chef Leong in his daily life in the kitchen. Her made-from-scratch attitude always finds its way into his cooking, and her influence is still evident in his creations.

His mum's influence, coupled with Chef Leong's experience – and above all his hard work, dedication and imagination – have brought his informed recipes into the kitchen of Luk Yu Tea House. He joins forces with Dim Sum Tastemaker, Chef Jun and Chiu Chow cuisine master chef Alex Au of the famous Pak Loh Chiu Chow to bring to you a redefined menu that transcends provinces with their treasury of Chinese soul food.



