From dresses to dances

Plus a popular ramen joint, a Spanish tapas-style resto and a sandwich shop

Owner Michael Zhang opens Sansotei Ramen's third location in the 905

Sansotei Ramen's new outpost in Markham marks its third and largest location in the GTA. Owner Michael Zhang is sticking with his signature look: the 1,600-square-foot space has bamboo banquettes, booths and sailor's ropes hanging from the ceiling. The menu is also the same, with six kinds of ramen. Oh, and Sapporo is only offered on tap here (3987 Highway 7 E., Unit 4, 905-604-7118).

Professional dance teacher Lori Rybak trained at the Broadway Dance Center and Giordano Dance Chicago before opening her own dance studio in Thornhill Square Shopping Centre. **Dancified**, which operates out of the same space as Wonderland Dance Company, offers a variety of adult day classes: contemporary, jazz, lyrical, ballet, hip hop and burlesque (wear your sassiest heels!) and musical theatre (drop-in single class $15, five-class pack $60 and 10-class pack $120). Rybak's business is celebrating its one-year anniversary this October (300 John St., 647-234-2444).

It's a Bao Time aims to cater to the lunch crowd on Commerce Valley Drive East — arguably the Bay Street of Markham — with simple $10 set meals: pork belly, fried chicken, perogies, brisket and mushroom with bao, banh mi or taco. It's a 40-seat takeout place, but the graffiti wall will make you want to linger with one of their healthy specialty drinks in hand (230 Commerce Valley Dr. E., Unit 2A).

Exterior brick and wood panels give **Tapagria** a rustic feel. Occupying the former space of Go for Tea, this Spanish tapas–style restaurant has an open-concept dining room with reclaimed live-edge tables and 184 stained maple seats. On the menu: a plethora of small dishes like octopus, foie gras and bone marrow, courtesy of Richard Andino, former executive chef of North 44 (lunch averages $12 to $20, dinner $25 to $50). The sangria bar offers eight to 10 tropical flavours like lychee, guava, pear, mango and peach. Or, perhaps opt for Estrella on tap, with buck-a-shuck oysters (230 Commerce Valley Dr. E., Unit 2).

GERRY WEBER HITS THE 905

One of the newest additions to Promenade mall, German fashion house **Gerry Weber** stocks clothing with generous cuts ($99 to $379). Sizing runs four to 18. Booties run under the $300 price point. The $479 black wool coat alone is worth the trip. And it's a good source for dresses (1 Promenade Cir., 905-764-8478).

Store manager Sanya Smolcic

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