

COMING OF AGE

All the posh, experimental eateries will rise and fall, but we won't tire of dialing the all-too familiar number to place an order for large fries and an ice-cream float. We grew up with McDonalds and the memories still stick with us, from clicking goofy pictures beside Ronald McDonald to waiting for the next toy to add to our collection with every Happy Meal. Little did we know that McDonalds was growing up with us.

EOTF — EXPERIENCE OF THE FUTURE

We stepped into the recently opened outlet at CR2 Mall in Nariman Point, and although we half expected what we were seeing, the shiny new interiors didn't fail to surprise us. Gone were the wooden panels that we've been so accustomed to seeing, stylishly replaced by classy black furnishing. We were told that every outlet had a different theme, and we made a mental note to try and visit as many as we could, simply out of curiosity.

We were introduced to customisable menu options, new technology and customer experience that the initiative boasts of. We were fascinated by the self-ordering kiosks, which were easy to use and saved us the hassle of having to wait in long queues for our meals. What's more, for the first time ever, your food would be served right at your table. Their EOTF also involves interactive table-top games, which children (or even the inner child in you) can enjoy during your meal. We particularly loved the several phone charging stations as well as the super fast Wi-Fi, which we're sure will draw in and keep customers hooked.

The food chain is also doing their bit to be environmentally friendly and help save water by installing sensors in the sink area, so that you use just the right amount of soap and water;

all of this without having to move a muscle, except of course, for getting yourself to the sink.

SUMMER SURPRISE

We decided to skip our usual McSpicy option and try something from the summer specials. McFizz (₹55), available in two flavours — Blue Citrus and Jeera Masala — was a treat in the sweltering heat, apart from being pocket-friendly. In addition to this, McDonald's introduces the Happy Price Combo that gives everyone a 'right to choose' their own meal. This value combo allows consumers to pick their favourite burger, wrap or side with a beverage of their choice. You can choose from a range of options including the McAloo Tikki, Mexican McAloo Tikki, French Fries, Chicken Kebab Burger, McEgg, Chicken Kebab Wrap and McFizz, McFloat, Sprite and Coke — all of this at an unbelievable price of ₹60. If you haven't tried the Chicken Kebab Wrap or Burger yet, we suggest you do before they're taken off the menu. This delightfully spicy snack is our current favourite. Pair it with the Jeera Masala and you have the perfect meal for the season.

IN ADDITION

The fast-food eatery has also launched healthy variants on their menu. We tried the Salad and the Tomato Soup, and were quite pleased with the simplicity of both dishes. Health-conscious patrons can now breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy a serving of nutritious goodness. The wraps have also taken a healthy turn with their whole wheat covering.

We see no reason to convince you to head over to the much-loved eatery, but we'll urge you to do the same as quick as you can, so that you can share our fascination of watching our childhood haunt grow up.

With high-tech improvisation and customer-friendly initiatives, Pearl Mathias steps into the newly launched McDonalds to see what else it has in store



>> The posh interiors of the new McDonalds at CR2, Nariman Point