## A Touch of Paris at Café La Défense



The chic interior of Café La Défense

A quaint café inspired by the chic bistros of France, Café La Défense has created a niche clientele at its Park Road venue.

Words Udeshi Amarasinghe Photographs Menaka Aravinda and Geeth Viduranga



Crunchy fresh salad served with toast

As you step into Café La Défense you are instantly drawn to the cosy and comfortable atmosphere. The walls of the café in brown hues, depict iconic scenes of Paris. The name - La Défense - is a suburb in Paris with small cafes and restaurants. It is this atmosphere that inspired Chandana De Silva, Managing Director to create at the Café La Défense. Initially, only French cuisine and beverages were served here, however with growing customer demand a more fusion menu was introduced. Crunchy salads and fresh juices, sandwiches, waffles and pasta are created with fresh ingredients to provide a healthy meal to customers. The coffee and tea menu is extensive serving freshly brewed cappuccino, latte, mocha, ice coffee and ice tea. The fast moving creamy smoothies served here are considered a Café La Défense signature beverage with the mango smoothie being a favourite. The cuisine and beverages at the café continuously evolve so that regular customers are provided with a new selection. Open from seven in the morning to 9.30 in the night, the café serves snacks and quick meals that includes breakfast as well.

Situated in a central residential area close to schools, offices and a health institution, the Café La Défense draws a diverse clientele with many being regulars. Students from the nearby schools find it a quiet and a relaxing space to study, while employees from offices have meetings and discussions at this private café. Towards, evening there is fun and laughter with many opting to play the guitar and sing in the spirit of friendship.



The café in brown hues depicts scenes of Paris

While the central café has tables arranged in bistro style, there are two private rooms downstairs that can facilitate small group meetings, brainstorming sessions for teams and presentations. The meeting room upstairs accommodates upto ten pax. On request, arrangements can be made to fulfil the requirement of the meeting or session.

Having completed only seven months, Chandana De Silva states that the focus is on continuously improving their services to the customer. "Café La Défense has emerged due to our passion for hospitality, food and beverages. We love to serve the people. We want to serve good food and create a good experience for the customer. That is our priority."

As you drive along Park Road, Café La Défense is hard to miss, a little bit of Paris just a turn away.

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