

BANGKOK'S RIVER HERITAGE

GOING WILD OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

POST-FESTIVE SPA REJUVENATIONS

PAIROJ KARNDEE'S CELESTIAL INSPIRATION



KATA ROCKS PHUKET

Branzino may sound like a particularly exotic example of Italian cuisine – or even an Inter Milan full back – but it's actually the Italian name of the fish used to create this dish. More commonly known elsewhere as Sea Bass, Branzino is presented here by Executive Chef Laia Pons. Succulent slices of Branzino are gently fried in olive oil with salt, thyme and lemon, before whipped egg white is added to complete the ingredients, which are then oven-baked for a short time and served as a simple, but fulfilling dish that's light and fluffy on the palate, and full of Mediterranean zest.

Wine Companion: A quick glance on the wine list and I found my choice, the Orvieto Classico from Ruffino. In Italy the wine is known as *The Sun of Italy in the Bottle*. This is a blend of grapes, mainly Grechetto. The wine has a good structure and acidity, and a nicely balanced body with a fine finish.

katarocks.com

PREGO KOH SAMUI

Pizza is an international phenomenon, with many variations on the original theme taking it far from its Italian roots. Fast-food versions resemble authentic pizza in name only, but here at Prego we're in traditional territory with this Pizza Capricciosa, a pizza of simple topping ingredients of Mozzarella, tomato sauce, cooked ham, mushrooms, artichokes and olives producing unexpected taste twists that live up to the translation and meaning of its name – capricious: given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour.

Wine Companion: My choice is the Sedara Rosso from Donnafugata in western Sicily. The name Donnafugata - Woman in Flight - refers to Queen Maria Carolina, wife of Ferdinand IV of Bourbon, who fled from Napoleon's troops in Naples during the early 1800s to Sicily, where the winery's vineyards now stand. Local grape Nero d'Avola is blended with some Cabernet Sauvignon for a nicely crafted medium-bodied wine with fruit-forward character.

prego-samui.com



