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TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007

The Garden Slug, Bright Centre, Singapore

Rating: 4/5



Quiet, personal and secluded makes [the Garden Slug](#) the perfect place for **secret lovers**, long dinners and quiet musings.

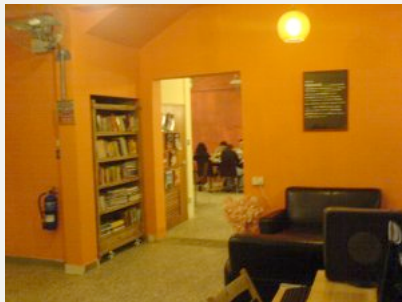
When I got off the bus stop across the Bright Centre, I was

hungry, the rain was pouring, the wind was strong, and my black leather shoes were soaked.

Since it was my first time in this area, I couldn't easily figure out where to go because there was no visible signage. I asked a bloke where the garden slug was and he **pointed at the grass**. Harharhar very funny sir (*gagol!*).

The Vibe

I finally found it and as I stepped inside, it **felt a bit Starbucks** because of the blackboard, dessert display, free wifi, couch and unobtrusive *lounge* music. You could tell that these guys have their priorities straight because on the far wall was a framed poster that said: "**Decisions: don't wanna make any today. just wanna eat my cheesecake.**" ([more photos here](#))



Instead of having just the odd newspaper or two, I was surprised that they've got a whole shelf of books you can actually take home and borrow! (Of course you have to come back to return it which makes it a

great advertising gimmick!)

The food

But I didn't come all the way here to read so I grabbed a seat in their dining area, which had a tiled floor that reminded me of Filipino bathroom tiles, and ordered their **rib eye steak** with Yukon mashed potatoes (SGD\$16.90), **pasta with roasted pumpkin** & plump juicy prawns (SGD\$13.90) and a glass of their **homebrewed lemongrass**



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iced tea (SGD\$3.50).

Their steak was surprisingly **tender** and it had a distinct flavour that I'm at a loss for words to describe. Was it smoky? pepper-y? I'm not sure but it was **definitely tasty**. The **pasta was so-so** and the shrimp was not as plump as I thought they would be. The lemongrass was refreshing but drink it fast because it's **best served chilled**.



For dessert, try the Pear William (SGD\$5.50) which is **stewed sweet pears** sauteed in white wine and cinnamon topped with gelato. Yummy!

Scary bathroom

I'm tempted to give minus points for the tiny (but clean)

bathroom located outside the resto, under a flight of

stairs. It's so out of the way that one of the waiters would **accompany the ladies** to show them where it was. Then again, the scary bathroom could also be a bonus point because you and your special someone could *ehem* **get creative** here specially when it's raining hard, it's dark and you're both drunk.

Conclusion

Four pawikan points. Bonus points for the personal service that made me feel like I was **eating in a friend's house**. Heck the location is so isolated that I felt like I was **eating in a far-away friend's house!**

If restaurants were music, this one would **definitely be indie**. It reminded me of Manila's [Sa Guijo](#) minus the bands but this place definitely has the potential to become one. How about wednesday acoustic nights? On my way out, I also finally *got* why the resto has such an avant garde name. (hint: it's all in their motto: **eat drink don't think!**)

How to get there

The [directions on their website](#) are not helpful at all so use mine instead:

Take bus 155 from the Eunos MRT (it's the bus stop by the street and not in the bus terminal). Alight at the 4th stop from Eunos. Bright Centre's across the street and if you face it, The Garden Slug will be on the left side. **To get back to the MRT**, take bus 15 to Eunos or 155 to Paya Lebar. Say hi to the slug staff for me and **tell them reviewsbyp sent you**.

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