

dish on the set menu is the brainchild of cooks experimenting with taste, texture and temperature.

### CRAZY FOR COCONUTS

---

It's no surprise that Samui's most famous natural produce finds its way into a medley of dishes. There's sweet coconut jam to spread on your croissants in the morning. is a spicy and sour coconut-based curry featuring octopus. is a flavoursome chicken soup made with coconut milk, lemongrass, lime juice, ginger, fish sauce and chilli paste. Usually made with chicken, beef or lamb, Massaman curry also employs coconuts – the meat is simmered in spices and coconut milk to soften it up after frying. You'll also see seafood being barbecued over coals of coconut husks.

---

### Mae Nam & the North Coast

Mae Nam has lots of eating options, from beachside, palm-thatch and driftwood affairs serving a mix of Thai, Western and seafood dishes to classier places tucked along the inland, lily-pad-pond-dotted tangle of roads. It's a lovely place to wander and find your own surprises. Don't overlook Mae Nam's **Walking Street** ( [MAP](#) ; Mae Nam; 🕒 from 5pm Thu), on Thursday evenings.

#### ★ Fish Restaurant

INTERNATIONAL \$

( [MAP](#) ; 📞 087 472 4097; Rte 4169, Mae Nam; mains from 50B; 🕒 11am-11pm)

With elegant Thai tablecloths and a well-priced, tasty menu of Thai seafood and pan-Asian dishes and international appetisers, this popular wood-floored eatery pulls in a regular stream of diners for its charming setting, winning spring rolls, gorgeous seafood curries, steamed sea bass and much more.

#### Bang Po Seafood

SEAFOOD \$\$

( [MAP](#) ; Bang Po; dishes from 100B; 🕒 dinner)

A meal at Bang Po Seafood is a test for the taste buds. It's one of the only restaurants that serves traditional Ko Samui fare: recipes call for ingredients such as raw sea urchin roe, baby octopus, sea water, coconut and local turmeric.

#### ★ Pepenero

ITALIAN \$\$

( [MAP](#) ; 📞 077 963353; [www.pepenerosamui.com](http://www.pepenerosamui.com); Mae Nam; mains from 250B; 🕒 6-10pm Mon-Sat)

Pepenero continues to cause a stir on Ko Samui, moving to this more accessible Mae Nam location. What this excellent and neatly designed Italian restaurant lacks in views is more than made up for by a terrific menu (including cutting boards with cheese and cold cuts) and the care and attention displayed to