



ENIGMA: THE JOURNEY OF A NORDIC CHEF

Can Enigma's next Michelin-starred host impress with Scandinavian cuisine?

The elusive Enigma burst onto the food scene in January, bringing a one-of-a-kind concept to the Palazzo Versace Dubai hotel. The plan? To have a different world-class chef reinvent the restaurant every few months. First was Spanish minimalist chef Quique DaCosta, who blew everyone away with his sensory and experimental dishes. Now for Enigma's difficult second album, top Michelin-starred Scandinavian chef Björn Frantzén has launched 'The Journey Of A Nordic Chef', which runs until June 30.

However fleeting, this is the first time Nordic cuisine has come to Dubai (no, Ikea doesn't count) and in a city always chasing the next trend, the combination of a new style of food in a new restaurant concept has made Frantzén's takeover big news.

The evening follows a set menu of 12

dishes and is essentially a tour through the last eight years of his acclaimed Stockholm restaurant Frantzén. The menu explains when each dish was first served and includes old favourites that aren't available in Stockholm – talk about exclusive.

The evening is an education in food. The menu itself is a beautifully presented pamphlet, including hand-drawn sketches



of each dish by Frantzén himself and paragraphs detailing particular ingredients.

Weird and wonderful ingredients are deployed everywhere. We never thought we'd like deep-fried white moss, or deer 'sushi', but we did. Even a touch of fir tree to our meals was impressive.

Every dish was intricately plated (the Swedish chef is a notorious perfectionist), and every offering felt honest, natural and nutritious. Diners were left guessing flavours until the last second; things that looked sweet had a bitter smoky taste, and the kitchen teased out natural sugars in otherwise savoury ingredients to create delicious moreish desserts.

If this is a testament to Nordic food then we're ready to book a ticket to Oslo. In the meantime, visit Enigma before it's too late.

Until June 30

a *Enigma, Palazzo Versace, Dubai, Mon to Wed Dhs750 for 12 dishes, Dhs550 for eight, Thur to Sat Dhs850 for 12 dishes, Dhs650 for eight. Tel: (04) 5568888. Taxi: Versace Hotel. enigmadx.com*

RATING

Food.....	A+
Atmosphere.....	T
Price	₹₵ ₹₵ ₹₵