

Charlie Xia



origin

Sun-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-12mn. No cards. Taikang Art Street, Bldg. 39, Lane 155 Jianguo Zhong Lu, by Ruijin Lu (6467 0100)

Elite model-turned-restaurateur Fabrice Wattez set his food ambitions straight and simple: to serve fresh seasonal fare in a serene setting. Together with some hard graft, this concept eventually evolved into his restaurant Origin. Visiting for Saturday brunch, we tried their oatmeal with brown sugar, maple syrup and fresh fruit (RMB 50 including a glass of juice), and smoked salmon Benedict with arugula (RMB 50). Both were as satisfying as they sound. We also loved their lamb polenta (RMB 98), even though they had to substitute one of the sides that came with it. Food like this could make Origin a cut-above choice among the mediocre outlets that abound in Taikang Lu. And yet if this is to really happen, their sluggish staff need to pick up their service pace. ■

Food: 3/ Service: 2/ Atmosphere: 3/ Cost for two (excluding drinks): RMB 248