



Aqua

By George Thomson



There are many among us who believe a bar should be seen and not heard.

Unfortunately, Aqua can achieve neither. Hidden in the middle of one of Pudong's sprawling residential complexes, it took us half



Justin Ventura


an hour (and a couple of phone calls) just to locate it. Which was a shame, because there is much to like about this place. Whitewashed and minimal throughout, the space has an air of John Lennon's 'Imagine' video to it. The two large balconies overlook a manicured garden and inviting pool, which make Aqua an ideal spot to while away an evening as the weather improves. Beers go for RMB28-38 and there is a broad selection of wines by the bottle (RMB250-450). Yet the real draw of this Italian bar-cum-restaurant is the pizzas, whose fresh toppings and gooey cheese – a rarity in Shanghai – make them an excellent bet at RMB65-90. Aqua deserves a bright future in Shanghai, but it remains hard to see why anyone from outside the immediate area would be drawn there. This needle in a haystack would have to offer something truly rare to lure Shanghai's spoiled-for-choice punters. // Daily 10am-10pm. All cards. 2F, Building 16, Yanlord Gardens, 99 Pucheng Lu, by Shangcheng Lu (6888 8852) 浦东浦城路99弄仁恒滨江园16号楼2楼

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