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Sandwich Wednesday: The Lin-Sanity Bánh Mi at JoJu in Elmhurst

Posted by: [JoeDiStefano](#) on Mar 7, 2012

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Behold: The Lin-Sanity bánh mi

Despite the ever-present [Mets cap](#), I am not much of a sports fan. That said Taiwanese-American Knicks superstar Jeremy Lin has not escaped my notice. Not because I've been watching basketball though. I've been monitoring the spread of Linsanity in the food world—notably BaoHaus' Taiwanese Te-Bao—on New York City menus and waiting for the trend to hit Queens. I thought for sure it would happen at a Taiwanese spot. As it turns out the first Jeremy Lin homage I noticed was at JoJu Modern Vietnamese Sandwiches. And it's a tasty one at that.

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Taiwanese chicken and Peruvian aji verde combine for a lavin of flavor.

Peruvian chicken and Peruvian aji verde combine for a layer of flavor.

"I'm gonna make a sandwich for him," JoJu's co-owner Julie Wong, whose husband is a big Jeremy Lin fan, recalled. With the exception of *chou doufu*, aka stinky tofu, she considered several popular Taiwanese dishes, including salt and pepper fried chicken and braised pork belly, before settling on *san bei ji*, or three cup chicken, as the star of the Lin-Sanity bánh mi (\$5.50).

Tender bits of chicken cooked in soy sauce, sugar, and mirin and shot through with Thai basil are slicked with Wong's homemade *aji verde*. It's surely the first time the garlicky green hot sauce commonly seen at Peruvian chicken joints has ever appeared at a bánh mì shop. The Lin-Sanity is dressed with all the standard bánh mì fixins: pickled carrot and daikon along with cucumbers, cilantro, and mayo. Wong thought it best to leave out the Knicks color blue as it would be both outlandish and unappetizing in a sandwich. I humbly suggested the creation of a gelatin dessert using both orange and blue.

JoJu's tribute to Number 17 is a spicy and spirited take on the Vietnamese sandwich. As much as I love to hate the word fusion the Lin-Sanity is that rare instance of fusion that works. It's a cross-cultural take on a sandwich that is inherently cross-cultural. "I love Peruvian chicken," Wong who is fan of Woodside's Peking BBQ said. So there you have it, a Taiwanese-Vietnamese sandwich with a Peruvian accent. Only in Queens kids, only in Queens.

JoJu, 83-25 Broadway, Elmhurst, 347-808-0887

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