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SHANGHAI

Uighur Restaurant

Xinjiangese whole roasted lamb, along with a dance show.

By CHRISTOPHER ST. CAVISH

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Location

280 Yishan Lu near Nandan Lu, Xuhui District (宜山路280号 近南丹路)
Shanghai, China

What to order

Chopped noodles (丁丁面, ding ding mian); grilled lamb skewers (羊肉串);
"tiger salad" (老虎菜, lao hu cai, shredded tomato, onion, cucumber,...

I've been coming to the Uighur Restaurant for a decade, but didn't know its name until I looked it up—I don't think anyone else did, either. It has always been, and will remain, "The Xinjiang place on Yishan Lu." The real name, it turns out, isn't much better. (Uighurs are the main ethnic group in Xinjiang. It's like calling it The Italian Restaurant.) Whatever you call it, it's where you go when you want to get sauced on black Sinkiang beer, eat a bunch of meat, and get into the cheesy stage show. It's great for groups, especially if you get your shit together a couple of days in advance and order the whole roasted lamb. There's always at least one table of middle-aged Chinese guys getting totally blotto, beer bottles crowding the tabletop, swaying in their seats. Just don't bother looking for the sign. The stairs to the entrance are next to the elaborate gold grill and through the cloud of lamb-kebab smoke.

