



The undeniable highlight of any visit to Sri Lanka is the cuisine. Whether you stop at a roadside stall for a chilli-laced snack or dine in lavish style at one of Colombo's swanky hotels, you'll have a hard time finding food that disappoints. Begin your triumphant culinary crusade with these five mouthwatering options.



HILTON COLOMBO A decent hotel breakfast spread is an ideal way to be introduced to the many high points of Sri Lankan cuisine, and the Hilton has one of the best in town. Enjoy standards such as *hoppers* (hemispherical rice flour pancakes), *kiribath* (rice cooked with coconut milk) and *sambols* (relishes made with chilli and dried Maldive fish), as well as various types of curries. You won't need to eat again until dinnertime, maybe.

www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/COLHITW-Hilton-Colombo-hotel/index.do ★ ★

LONG FENG Just when you thought you couldn't improve on the food in the Lion City, along came Colombo's Long Feng, a spicy Sri Lankan twist on fine-dining Singaporean cuisine. As you'd expect of a restaurant attached to a five-star hotel, the ambience is pleasant and the service exemplary.

cinnamonhotels.com/LakesideLongFeng.htm ★ ★ ★

NUGA GAMA A faithful recreation of the traditional rural hamlet, Nuga Gama (literally "banyan tree village") manages to provide not only an incredibly cosy and authentic atmosphere (complete with assorted farm animals) but also a fine sampling of simple Sri Lankan fare, including tasty curries, vegetable dishes and *hoppers*. You'll quickly forget you're actually sitting in the grounds of Colombo's premier five-star hotel.

cinnamonhotels.com/GrandNugagama.htm ★ ★

SPONGE For those tummy-rumbling times between meals, Sri Lankans invented "short eats", a variety of (often spicy) savoury bite-size pastries, rolls, patties and buns filled with fish, meat, egg or vegetable. Sponge's well-stocked menu includes all the above plus an artery-busting army of muffins, cakes, tarts and donuts. Take out or dine in on comfy sofas. sponge.lk ★

5 TOP EATERIES IN COLOMBO

/ words Ian Seldrup

PRICES	
Low	★
Medium	★ ★
High	★ ★ ★



MINISTRY OF CRAB

Housed in a lovely newly renovated 17th-century Dutch colonial building, the Ministry of Crab doesn't give out awards for guessing what they serve. But this exclusive eatery, created by a Sri Lankan-Japanese master chef and two of Sri Lanka's cricket legends, serves up some of the classiest seafood dishes in the capital.

ministryofcrab.com

★ ★ ★