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Left: Festive Combo from Peach Garden, Right: Huber's Butchery offers a wide selection of meats and ingredients, PHOTOS: PEACH GARDEN, HUBER'S BUTCHERY

Food from the heart

Impress your loved ones this Yuletide season with your own culinary creations and festive eats

BY JESSICA LEOW

COOKING enthusiasts are putting their (food) stamp on everything from sausages and ribs, to pork belly and fish.

In particular, smoking meat is catching on with the carnivorous crowd who are keen to channel their inner masterchef.

Teacher James Leong has been experimenting for about a year.

"Smoking gives meat a certain sweetness that cannot be achieved any other way. Also, cooking at low temperatures for a longer time yields very tender meat from normally tough but flavourful cuts such as beef short ribs and brisket. Many of these cuts are usually cheaper than the more popular cuts such as sirloin and ribeye. Smoked turkey is great too as it retains its juiciness and the smoky flavour gives it additional depth," says Mr Leong, 35.

"My favourite meat for smoking is pork, particularly pork ribs but also pork bellies. Experimenting with different spice rubs, temperatures and timing is all part of the fun."

Mr Andre Huber, managing director of Huber's Butchery, says: "Young people these days seem to be doing more cooking at home, and we have received several enquiries about smoking meats.

"Our butchers are knowledgeable in the different aspects of cooking so they are able to take queries from customers."

So if you are game to try your hand at smoking your own festive fare, pick up your meats from the store at Dempsey Road, which also sells a wide range of sausages and ingredients as well as cooking equipment. No smoker? Ham it up then.

"The sale of raw gammon ham is pick-

ing up as more customers try cooking it themselves - making their own marinade and stock and eventually finishing it off with their own glaze. This makes a good personalised Christmas centrepiece or gift," says

Tuck into crowd favourite pork knuckle at Starker Q. PHOTO: STARKER Q

But if it is all too troublesome for you, let others do the cooking. Peach Garden's Baked Turkey With Eight Treasure Stuffing, Served With Trio Sauce (mushroom, black pepper and Szechuan) and Plum Glazed Ham (bone-in) are new highlights on this year's menu, which also features a Gourmet Pork Sausage Platter with Lemon-Thyme Dip.

For parties with more than 30 guests, there is the Christmas Oriental-style buffet menu with roasted crispy pork cubes, roasted London duck, fried jasmine and brown rice with diced turkey and vegetables in black truffle sauce, mini Christmas log cake and chilled jelly royale.

If you prefer to dine out, do it Germanstyle at JEM Mall. Grab a seat at Starker Q (#01-05) from now to Dec 31, and order the pork knuckle with two half-pint beers at \$55.80, or the pork belly set that includes two large Starker beers at





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