



The pink variety features narrow and long petals that give an elegant feel to the flower.



The white lotus variety is named after Macau's other name "Haojiang."

Water blossoms on show at Jiading festival



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He Shiwei
A staff member at the Guyi Garden

Li Lanyu and Li Xinran

The 10th lotus and water lilies festival opened in suburban Jiading District on June 22, with more than 500 varieties of lotus flowers and around 250 varieties of water lilies on display, some of which are making their debut in the city.

At Guyi Garden, the main venue for the flower festival, visitors can walk along a winding wooden path to get to the center of the lake, where they will find themselves surrounded by blooming pink and white lotus flowers against

the backdrop of green lotus leaves. Bright-colored water lilies, meanwhile, open quietly on the surface in the auspicious cloud-shaped pool, offering a serene and charming scene.

Near the lawn, species of award-winning varieties from previous national lotus exhibitions are displayed in pots, providing tourists a rare chance to appreciate them all in just one visit.

"We have collected both the newest and best varieties, such as the one with very narrow and long petal tips, which conveys a feel of elegance," said Wang Guanfei, a gardening

engineer at the Guyi Garden.

During the lotus and water lily festival, nearly 30 interactive activities such as night tours, aesthetic education experiences, intangible cultural heritage courses, horticultural lectures and science popularization courses will be held at the garden.

"Notably, an immersive night tour has been designed this year that focuses on appreciating lotus and water lilies, classical gardens and traditional

cultural elements, such as *hanfu* (Han-style clothes), traditional dance performances and concerts featuring Jiangnan *sizhu* (traditional string and wind music).

"The aim is to provide visitors with a richer leisure experience on a summer night," said He Shiwei, a staff member at the Guyi Garden.

In addition to the Guyi Garden, the festival, which will run through August 22, also has two parallel venues, one at the Zuibaichi Park in Songjiang District and the other at the Chenjiashan Park in Jiading District.



A man takes photos of the water lilies in the pool shaped like an auspicious cloud. — Photos by Li Lanyu

Lotus banquet offers feast for the eyes and taste buds

Fried lotus flower petals



Li Lanyu and Li Xinran

LOTUS, a majestic flower that is in full bloom this season, can not only be appreciated but also tasted. With the opening of the 10th lotus and water lilies festival in the Guyi Garden, a lotus banquet has been launched again to allow the public to savor the summer delicacies.

This year's lotus banquet comprises eight cold dishes, 12 hot dishes and two dim sum, using all parts of the plants including its roots, leaves, flowers and seeds, an upgrade from the previous version which focused

mainly on the food resembling the blossoms.

One dish is made by using newly sprouted lotus leaves, which are deep-fried with diced lotus roots and shrimp meat wrapped inside.

Another dish features the lotus flower petals, which are dipped in a thin layer of batter and then fried. Customers are likely to be impressed by both the crispy texture and the beautiful plate setting.

The three-color *xiaolongbao*, or small steamed buns, are another highlight of the lotus feast. Stuffed with pork meat and

lotus root, the buns, with red representing the petals, white the roots and green the leaves, plus 18 folds on top, offer a feast for both the eyes and the taste buds.

"We had been working for nearly one month on this year's menu of the lotus banquet," said Zhang Yukang, executive chef of the Guyi Garden Restaurant. "By using seasonal ingredients and exquisite utensils, every dish in the feast is presented with distinctive lotus elements."

Bookings need to be made at least one day prior to a visit at 59124222.



The dish is divided into mouthful-sized spoons in the shape of lotus petals. — Photos by Li Lanyu



1. Three-color *xiaolongbao* stuffed with pork meat and lotus root
2. Sweet lotus roots with sticky rice
3. Soup of three fresh delicacies featuring seedpods