

# Melissa Wanderlust

“Not all those who wander are lost.” – J. R. R. Tolkien

Sunday, January 29, 2012

## Foodie Adventures: DC's Sorta-Secret Supper Club

I'm sure there are super-secret supper clubs around DC that you have to be extra cool to know about, but I am not that cool so I discovered this one by chance. A group of GWU students had created a mini-documentary called "HUSH" about a woman of Jain descent who operates a supper club out of her home. I happened to come across it at school, so I signed myself, Seth, and our friend Leslie up for a meal. Four days later we were standing on the doorstep of a Spanish colonial-style house in the U Street area, trying to remember the password required for entrance.

The host, who goes by Geeta, graciously welcomed us along with 9 other guests. We sat in her living room sipping saffron cocktails and gazing into the large terrarium on the coffee table.



Geeta snapping photos of guests. You can see the terrariums in the background.

Geeta was slightly flustered because the server had broken her foot and had to leave, meaning she was a one woman show for the night. Ironically there was a writer from the New York Times in attendance.

Although HUSH is technically secret, it has received coverage in the [Washington Post](#) already, along with a couple other places. Geeta left the World Bank to start her supper club, and has palpable business savvy. Later, she would explain that Jains are known for being good businesspeople in India.

The meal that followed easily outdid any Indian or vegetarian restaurant I have ever experienced. The food did not stop coming and I was so full I could barely stand. I forgot to take pictures of the food, but I do have a picture of the mess we made (notice the Times writer scribbling furiously to the side).



But what makes HUSH special is not just the food (although it's amazing), but the experience. Geeta describes her cultural roots and explains the special spices used in her cooking - some of which are unique to Jain cuisine. The convergence of strangers into one home reminded me very much of our couch surfing experiences. There are breaks between each course where we'd all retire to the living room and stretch out like overfed cats until our stomachs settled.

I believe that it's important to seek out unique and memorable experiences on a regular basis. HUSH is certainly a different way to spend an evening, and despite being not-so-secret, it still feels like an adventure.

Geeta closed the evening with hugs and jars of chutney. She laughed at the small foibles of the evening, though honestly I wouldn't have known any better if she hadn't mentioned the wounded server. The other guests - reticent at the beginning of the evening - were giving each other rides home by the end. We waddled back to our car after 5 hours of feasting and immediately passed out once home.

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The price is donation-based but is suggested at \$75. The menu we had is below. (It changes every week.)

## HUSH MENU

January 28, 2012



*Cocktail & Appetizers*

Viceroy  
Kachori with Chutney  
Chana Chaat



*Entrees*

Pulao with Kadhi  
Papad  
Bell Peppers with Gur and Besan  
Makai no Chino  
Spinach Parathas (Thelpa)  
Cucumber Raita



*Dessert & Chai*

Carrot Halwa  
Masala Chai  
Saunf

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*Thank you for dining at HUSH*

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