

# Ripe for the picking

Summer is here and that means a variety of fruits have been or will soon be harvested in Jiading. The list includes grapes, peaches and cherries, among many others. When you visit, don't forget to take a big bite of our juicy fruit.

(Sophie Wang)

## Malu Grapes

Have you ever picked the grapes by yourself, or ever drunk fresh grape juice and eaten dishes made with grapes? If not, you're in for a treat at Malu Grape Garden. There are now four types of pre-matured grapes from Malu Grape Garden on the market and they sell for 40 yuan (US\$6) per 500 grams. Since July 8, the annual Malu Grape Festival unveils a series of cultural activities with dining and entertainment options.

**Venue:** Malu Grape Garden

**Address:** 27 Dazhi Rd, Malu Town

**Tel:** 5951-1816

**How to get there:** If you are driving from downtown Shanghai to Malu Grape Garden, you can exit at Jiading Town from Hujia Highway (S5), drive north along Bole Road, turn right at Jiayi Road and drive east, turn left at Chengliu Road and drive south. The signs on the highway will guide you the rest of the way.

## Linye Peaches

Linye peaches, grown near the bank of the Huanggu pond, are beautiful in shape with a sweet and delicious taste. They are grown organically. Linye peaches are now available with eight peaches in a box, costing 100 yuan. This is the first year for Linye peaches and it is expected they will be sold out at the end of June. You'd better hurry up if you want to have a try.

**Address:** 788 Shuangzhu Rd, Huating Town

**Tel:** 1502-1758-536

**How to get there:** You can drive and exit at Jiading Town from Hujia Highway (S5), turn right and drive straight on Yecheng Road, turn left on Chengliu Road M., turn right on Jiajian Road and drive east, turn left on Liuxiang Road and drive straight, turn right on Shuangzhu Road, and drive east for 600 meters.

## Lijiang Peaches

Dreamy peach gardens are often depicted in poems written in ancient times. Lijiang Garden is particularly beautiful in April, when the peach flowers are in full bloom. From July to September, Lijiang peaches, Shanghai pears and grapes are ready to be picked.

Visitors may also enjoy the chance to spend the night, go fishing or try some rural cuisine fresh from the farm. A dinner costs 800 yuan a table, or about 100 yuan per person. The agricultural products are sold from 30 to 300 yuan. The farmhouse with three standard rooms costs



800 yuan per night.

**Venue:** Lijiang Garden

**Address:** 820 Jiazhu Rd (Zhuqiao Village), Jiading Industrial Zone

**Tel:** 5996-8688

**How to get there:** You can drive and take the Jiading Town exit from Hujia Highway (S5), drive along Bole Road and turn left on Tacheng Road, turn right on Chengzhong Road and drive north, turn left on Shuangzhu Road, drive north on Zhujia Road and you will reach Lijiang Garden.

## Juyuan Cherries

Cherries taste good but are hard to nurture. The sweet cherries in the southern part of China are especially difficult to grow. Baiguo Garden has 1,000 rare cherry trees. In early spring the cherry flowers blossom. As the garden is still in its infancy stage, it only accepts group reservations for a visit.

**Venue:** Baiguo Garden

**Address:** Qinggang Village, Juyuan New Area

**Tel:** 6996-8606

**How to get there:** You can drive and take the Jiading Town exit from Hujia Highway (S5), turn left and drive west on Yecheng Road and turn right on Shengxin Road, drive north to Huyi Road and turn left, drive west on Huyi Road and you will arrive at Baiguo Garden.

## Keep turning the pages



▲ Modern Arched Bookshelf marks itself as a "rainbow bridge" to the "sea of knowledge." It has several arched shapes for selection, and each is equipped with several shelves for books and cups.

► BookDart is a metallic bookmark that does more than mark your page. It helps you even mark the last paragraph you read so there will be no need to reread any lines. It does this without damaging the book in any way.



◀ Bookmate is a book stand that is equipped with an LED light on the two sides so that you can read at night. It can also function as a bookmark and help protect the book.

## Fahua Tower stands the test of time

Jin Rong and Wang Jie

FAHUA Tower, at Zhouqiao in Jiading, was built between 1205 and 1207.

It is said that the students in Jiading were not competitive in the national examinations at that time, and someone suggested building a tower there with the name of Fahua, meaning the wisdom of Buddha in Chinese, in a hope that Jiading students could obtain that wisdom.

After the establishment of the tower, the students in Jiading began to rank high in the national examinations. As a result, Fahua Tower has long been viewed as a blessing among the district's intellectuals.

During the Yuan (1271-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties, Fahua Tower fell into disrepair for several times.

In 1608, Chen Yiyuan, magistrate of then Jiading County, decided to renovate the seven-story tower. The brick structure has a height of 40.83 meters. Each level is equipped with a railing and cornices, below which hang wind chimes. When the wind blows, the bells chime. Visitors can take the stairs to the top floor for a panoramic view of the whole town.

It is a beautiful scene with the river flowing nearby between the narrow lanes and old traditional houses.

Later in 1924, Dai Sigong, another Jiading resident, collected money to repair the tower once again.

In 1994, the Jiading government spent nearly 2 million yuan (US\$313,897) to repair the leaning tower. During the renovation work, nearly 10,000 ancient relics dating from before the Song Dynasty (960-1279) were found, including ancient coins, jade figurines, sculptures carved from jade and stone, bronze wares, ceramics and ancient books.

Meanwhile, some modern treasures such as a pair of stone chops by Shanghai local Deng Sanmu, the most famous modern seal cutting master in southern China, a silver model of Santana car and Jiading bamboo carvings were buried in the basement as a time capsule.

At the end of 1996, the renovation of the tower was completed.



Fahua Tower is now viewed as a blessing for Jiading's intellectuals.  
— Wang Lihui