

We love nothing more than getting dolled up and having a night out at the weekend, so we jumped at the chance to review the happening hotspot – Monte Carlo Beach Club



On arrival a smiling doorman pulls open the enormous, wooden front doors and we feel like the little people from Lilliput in Gulliver's Travels – they are the biggest doors that we have ever seen! We walk past the outdoor pool, which is artfully lit up – the water glistens and twinkles invitingly under the stars and we know where we will spend our next day off.

Sea Lounge has a chilled out vibe. The interior is eclectic and funky – we spot a fish skeleton sculpture, vintage seascape photos, hanging lanterns and a family of mismatched vases and imposing white columns runs the length of the bar.

The name Sea Lounge pretty much says it all. It's too dark to see the ocean but we can hear the waves break on the sand behind us (before the music starts) as we lounge on comfy wicker chairs. Resident DJ Natalie Brogan spins the tunes while we sip on an 'it's-the-weekend!'

bubbly beverage.

We love listening to house music on a night out although we must admit to being totally clueless about the different styles of house music – techno, trance, funky or progressive – it's all the same to us! We really love Natalie's mix though, which is a chilled-out playlist of different house tracks with vocals (for example Mowgli's Back in the Day) and is worlds apart from the usual 'dush, dush, dush' house music.

The menu has a good variety of meat, fish, desserts and a 'neither meat nor fish' section. We order vegetable tempura to nibble on. The chunky fried vegetable sticks are smothered in a light, crispy batter without a hint of grease and taste delicious dunked in the side of creamy sauce.

If that wasn't enough to tickle your fancy then be sure to check out Monte Carlo's Grape and Cheese night every Thursday in June. Enjoy two glasses of grape and a selection of cheese for only AED 149.

Catriona Doherty

What? A night out at Sea Lounge (Natalie plays every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday).

Where? Monte Carlo Beach Club, Saadiyat Island

Cost: Food from AED 40

We say: Chic and chilled

Contact: 02 656 3500