Maggi

In Maggi's case, its soup had a somewhat bright yellow color (which stains white pots or bowls if left for too long), and it has this obvious egg yolk smell. Unlike Quickchow, it's sold cheaper (P6.00 for 55g), and its saltiness was just right. In addition, Maggi has carrot bits included with the chives. One thing I noticed was its slightly roasted garlic taste that worked really well with the other seasonings, thus giving more flavors to enjoy and appreciate. Maggi's packaging does say it is made on equipment that

also processes milk. That's probably why I observed that Maggi has a little "milky" aftertaste, which is neither positive nor negative.



Nissin's Ramen

Nissin's (sold at P6.00 for 57g) gives the whole chicken noodle battle a special twist. Nissin's goes the extra mile by adding sesame oil flavor to its soup. On the other hand, its rather strong sesame smell and taste considerably weakens the chicken flavor people look for. The ramen is less satisfying because among its counterparts, it has the thinnest noodles. Though it has a refreshing fresh taste to it, this product may be too light for people who want something heavy for breakfast. This product would probably do well as a mid-day snack rather than the first meal of the day.



Magnolia

Magnolia is the most expensive because it retails more than double the price of all the brands (P16.50 for 90g), but nevertheless makes up for it in terms of quality. Magnolia is nothing short of authentic. Having almost the same amount of noodles, it is the only brand to include real morsels of ground chicken meat and diced carrots, taking away the artificial taste all the other brands seem to have. Magnolia's seasoning packet's content isn't even in powder form; it is in a gel-like consistency which makes it easier to mix with boiling water. The ingredients do work in harmony, as you can easily taste the chicken meat and essence, carrots, black pepper and onion individually. It's probably the closest thing you will get to home-cooked. One thing I noticed though is that the carrot taste in the soup is more evident than the rest.



Final thoughts

Depending on your personal budget and taste preference, any brand could be a good pick. However, based on quality and getting one's money's worth, I would honestly recommend either Magnolia or Maggi as the better breakfast choice. Both brands have the good quality chicken flavor taste consumers prefer, which could help you feel fuller in the morning.

While obviously pricier, with Magnolia, you really do get your money's worth. The big quality difference and home-cooked taste sets it apart and will be worth every peso spent. Alternatively, Maggi is a wise pick for people on a tighter budget. Though not as authentic as Magnolia, Maggi is certainly tasty. It would be a good choice particularly for consumers who want a kid-friendly flavor since its egg taste is very popular with children. So, whichever of the two you choose, you'll really get a good deal.

www.cook.net.ph. AUGUST 2008 91