



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2025

Contact: Lydia Cascaldo

lydia@irvinpr.com, 740-398-4377

Amara to Open in Downtown Columbus: A Mediterranean Restaurant Rooted in Culture, Warmth, and Connection

Chef Josh Dalton's Mediterranean restaurant is expected to open this spring on the Scioto Mile

Columbus, OH — Downtown Columbus' dining scene will soon welcome Amara, a new Mediterranean restaurant from Chef Josh Dalton, set to open at 229 S Civic Center Drive. Designed as a place of warmth, generosity, and shared experience, Amara brings a thoughtful, modern approach to Mediterranean cuisine, rooted deeply in culture, hospitality, and the joy of gathering around the table.

The name *Amara*, comes from both Sanskrit, meaning "immortal" or "eternal," and Greek, meaning "unfading." This reflects the heart of the concept: food that nourishes both body and soul, inspired by the diverse coastal regions of the Mediterranean. Drawing from the flavors and traditions of Southern Europe, North Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean, Amara's menu will focus on vibrant vegetables, olive oils, fresh herbs, grains, seafood, and thoughtfully prepared meats—simple, honest food elevated through technique and care. A rotating collection of housemade dips, spreads, and warm, fresh-baked breads, known as *meze* will be a staple. Amara is designed to be flexible, with handheld lunch pitas for Scioto Mile Fountain visitors and evening shareable plates for dinnertime guests.

Amara is the latest concept from Dalton, a Columbus-based chef and restaurateur, known for his deep respect for culture, craft, and hospitality. The idea for Amara was born from years of travel throughout the Mediterranean, where meals are unhurried, ingredients are treated with reverence, and food is inseparable from people and place.

"Every time I travel through the Mediterranean, I'm reminded of how good food can make you feel, physically and emotionally," said Dalton. "It's not just about the flavors; it's about the people, the ease, the generosity. With Amara, we want to bring that feeling back home to Columbus."

Anchored by the riverfront, the space at 229 S Civic Center Drive is designed to reflect that philosophy. The restaurant is expected to seat about 70 people inside with plentiful patio seating for guests to enjoy sights of the Scioto Mile Fountain. Guests can expect a dining experience that feels both refined and approachable, where hospitality is as important as what's on the plate.

Amara will also feature Dalton's signature cocktail and wine offerings, and include drinks designed to sip and stroll along the riverfront, using the Center City DORA.

-MORE-

“With a premier location situated along the Scioto Mile, Amara will complement the many successes already in place along the Downtown riverfront,” said Downtown Columbus, Inc. President Amy Taylor. “This restaurant will be a new gem in the growing Downtown restaurant scene. Given his successful track record, Josh Dalton will bring a seasoned hand to this preeminent space.”

Amara is slated to open in spring 2026, with additional details about the menu, opening date, and reservations to be announced in the coming weeks.

Renderings of Amara can be found [HERE](#) with credit to Sketch Blue.

###

Amara

Mediterranean at heart

229 S Civic Center Drive

Columbus, Ohio