

The Muslim West | Court Life

The ceremony of dining

The ceremony of dining and the manner of the diners themselves became increasingly refined under the influence of Baghdad. Food that was once shared from a common receptacle was now placed on several dishes served according to a strict protocol. Menus were enriched with new and varied recipes with flavours and smells intended to delight. After-dinner entertainment included music and dancers, all within an ornate palatial setting, thus ensuring that all the senses were enchanted.



Name:

Ataifor (bowl)

Dynasty:

Hegira 324–66 / AD 936–76 Umayyads of al-Andalus, Caliphate period

Details:

National Archaeological Museum
Madrid, Spain

Justification:

Dishes were served at elegantly laid tables furnished with cut and blown glass and sumptuous glazed ceramic crockery, all illuminated by fine bronze lamps.



Name:

Glazed bowl

Dynasty:

Hejira 6th century / AD 12th century Almoravid or Almohad

Details:

Museum of Mértola
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

Justification:

Dishes were served at elegantly laid tables furnished with cut and blown glass and sumptuous glazed ceramic crockery, all illuminated by fine bronze lamps.



Name:

Star dish

Dynasty:

Hegira 1274 / AD 1857–8 'Alawid

Details:

Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:

Dishes were served at elegantly laid tables furnished with cut and blown glass and sumptuous glazed ceramic crockery, all illuminated by fine bronze lamps.



Name:

Flask

Dynasty:

Hegira 6th–7th centuries / AD 12th–13th centuries Almohad

Details:

National Archaeological Museum
Madrid, Spain

Justification:

Dishes were served at elegantly laid tables furnished with cut and blown glass and sumptuous glazed ceramic crockery, all illuminated by fine bronze lamps.

**Name:**

Lamp with a spout

Dynasty:

Hegira 4th–early 5th centuries / AD 10th–11th centuries Fatimid–Zirid

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:

Dishes were served at elegantly laid tables furnished with cut and blown glass and sumptuous glazed ceramic crockery, all illuminated by fine bronze lamps.
