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. |