

# 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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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