

DOWNTOWN HOUSTON+

HOUSTON DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT DISTRICT APPROVES NEW MARKET SQUARE PARK RESTAURANT OPERATOR, PETITE LUCIE New concept from Houston chef Omar Pereney to debut in Spring 2025

HOUSTON, TX - Today, the Houston Downtown Management District board of directors officially selected Houston chef Omar Pereney to operate a new Market Square Park restaurant. Chef Pereney, founder of Culinary Matters and owner of Love Croissants, will oversee the transformation of the sit down restaurant and takeaway counter, Petit Lucie.

A charming French-inspired bakery, café, and bar, Petite Lucie will be nestled in the heart of Market Square Park in Houston's historic district. The revamped space will also feature the addition of a new French bistro-style outdoor bar, a welcoming space for residents, theatergoers, and park visitors to relax and enjoy a refreshing beverage. Renovations will begin this fall, with the restaurant set to reopen in Spring 2025.

“Chef Omar’s Love Croissants are a prized delicacy among Downtown Houstonians, selling out every weekend at the Market Square Park Farmers Market,” says Kris Larson, President and CEO of Downtown Houston+. “With Petite Lucie, Love Croissants fans can enjoy Omar’s delicious creations from early morning until evening in a new and convenient location. The eagerly anticipated revived Market Square Park food and beverage program will be a keystone of a retail and restaurant renaissance coming to Downtown’s Historic District.”

Open every day from 7 am to 9 pm, the delightful café will offer a picturesque outdoor seating area, complete with a partially covered awning under mature shade trees.

“My ‘love letter’ to Downtown Houston, Petite Lucie will be the perfect spot to start your day with a freshly baked croissant and a steaming cup of coffee,” says chef Omar Pereney. “As the day progresses, the café transforms into an inviting lunch spot, offering a variety of savory dishes and refreshing beverages, as well as an expertly curated selection of wines, handcrafted cocktails, aperitifs, and premium beers.”

In the evening, Petite Lucie exudes a romantic ambiance, ideal for a leisurely dinner or a relaxing drink at the bar. Their market-driven bistro menu is a global tribute to the culinary genre, drawing inspiration from regions like Provence, Normandy, and the Mediterranean coast. Chef Pereney also plans to customize the menu for fan-favorite events, including Movies Under the Stars, Blanket Bingo, and other park programming.

Whether diners are looking for a quick bite to eat, a leisurely meal with friends, or a romantic evening under the stars, Petite Lucie offers an enchanting experience of the essence of French café culture in the welcoming heart of Downtown Houston.

As if that weren’t enough, Petite Lucie will also debut a comprehensive executive catering program from day one, offering an impressive selection of pastries, premium breakfast and lunch boxes, and beverage services to Downtown offices and residents.

For press resources and visuals, visit the press kit [here](#).

ABOUT DOWNTOWN HOUSTON+

Downtown Houston+ stewards the vision of Downtown as a center of global commerce and local culture and Houston's heart for opportunity, excitement, and joy. Its family of aligned entities — Central Houston Inc., Houston Downtown Management District and Downtown Redevelopment Authority — collectively advance a shared mission to champion and enhance Downtown Houston as a connected and thriving place for everyone. For more information, visit downtownhouston.org.

ABOUT CHEF OMAR PERENEY

Chef Omar Pereney, a Venezuelan culinary prodigy, gained fame as a 14-year-old TV star on El Gourmet's Yo, Cocinero. Starting his professional career at 11, he opened his first restaurant, Dalai Restaurant & Lounge, in Caracas at 16. By 18, he was a chef instructor at Le Cordon Bleu in Cancun and later served as Corporate Chef for La Trainera Restaurant Group in Mexico City.

Relocating to Houston at 20, Pereney became executive chef at Peska Seafood Culture and served as a private chef to President George H.W. Bush. He is now a restaurant consultant with his firm Culinary Matters, having contributed to the success of notable Houston establishments like including Travelers Table, Vibrant, Homestead, Saigon Hustle, The Nash, Patio by La Pasha, Duchess, and many others.

In 2022, Pereney launched Love Croissants, a bakery in Midtown Houston specializing in European-style pastries. His latest venture, Petite Lucie, promises to further showcase his culinary expertise.

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