

In March of 2020, like all the world, we were forced to shut down. The heartbreak, accompanied by uncertainty and financial chaos, created turmoil in our world, our community, our city, our state, and our country. In those times, one goes to what they know. We knew our industry: food, hospitality, and service. Like many other families, we looked for ways to help our community through food. Serendipitously, this is the same time Minnesota Central Kitchen was born with the intention of making millions of meals for the underserved. Partnering with them through the bulk of the pandemic has provided hope, growth, and opportunity to believe in the future of our communities. Through prayers of staying strong and staying together, or maybe just being too stubborn to give up, we trusted that better days were ahead. The experience of enduring the worst crisis of the modern world gave us pause when we considered even contemplating a new venture. But we did just that, and we believed the universe would continue to be kind.

The story is long (believe us when we tell you that this is the short version). We toured many buildings. After one such tour, fate had us bumping into our friend, Bill Ribnick, who owned a one-of-a-kind, historic building – Ribnick Furs. Over a year of negotiations, financing, and conversations, along with the amazing help of Sunrise Bank and Mary Stoick, we bought the building. The Ribnick Family purchased this building from the Berman Brothers, and we are the third family in the over 120-year history to own this jewel. Now the work begins; how do you create a 3-level masterpiece with the coolest underground bar in the world, a modern take on a Parisian Brasserie, a Ralph Lauren inspired event center, and neighborhood terrasse while maintaining the Minneapolis North Loop identity, and preserving the historic qualities of the building? One sister beam at a time.

New History became the historical consultant, Firm Ground, the architects, BKBM, structural, and these are just a of the few partners in this labor of love. Of course, our general contractors, Greiner, led by Tony Ghiliani and Josh Helgren, have been integral to this ongoing process... and so began our journey.

We are a winter away from opening and happy to announce that amid the greatest storm, we have found a "Margaux" (the French word for pearl).

We have promised our community and city that we will do this differently, emphasizing our family roots, honoring the historic ground, and partnering with our amazing and culturally diverse BIPOC community.

Welcome to MAISON MARGAUX, from the Fhima Family led by Eli, Chloe, Mimi, Racquel, Lori and David.

