

Readers select name of Court Avenue's newest restaurant



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(Photo: Slingshot Architecture)

We gave readers a chance to vote for the name of the newest restaurant on Court Avenue and they chose just that.

RōCA – short for Restaurant on Court Avenue – was the winner and is expected to open as soon as next month at 208 Court Ave.

Owner Todd Millang provided eight potential names for the restaurant, which will replace the wine bar Sbrocco. RōCA was the overwhelming favorite, receiving 48 percent of the 130 votes cast at DesMoinesRegister.com. The Docket was second most popular with 13 percent of the vote.

RōCA will specialize in shared plates and craft cocktails with a more casual atmosphere than Sbrocco, Millang said. Jason Kapela, chef and co-founder of Louie's Wine Dive, has signed on as a consultant, co-owner and part-time general manager, Millang said. Aaron Holt, who worked in Sbrocco's kitchen, will serve as chef.

Construction is underway and Millang said he hopes to open the restaurant in late July. Shorty's, the Schlitz-themed bar in the basement, will remain open during the renovation.

The building itself is [one of the oldest downtown](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2014/05/22/businesses-born-court-avenue-site/9406547/) ([/story/money/business/development/2014/05/22/businesses-born-court-avenue-site/9406547/](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2014/05/22/businesses-born-court-avenue-site/9406547/)). A hand-drawn map and a city directory indicated it stood in the late 1860s and was home to several successful retailers.

Millang, a commercial real estate agent who also owns Johnny's Hall of Fame, a sports bar on Court Avenue, plans to ask the city to extend RōCA's patio east of the building. He also plans to work with Des Moines Social Club Executive Director Zach Mannheimer to commission a mural on the east side of the building, currently a large empty green wall facing Second Avenue.

"It's such a huge canvas, we have to have a good plan for it," Millang said.

Naming contest:

- RōCA: 48 percent
- The Docket: 13 percent
- The Verdict: 12 percent
- Slate: 11 percent
- Jury Duty: 6 percent
- Stem: 5 percent
- Theatre 208: 3 percent
- The Gavel: 2 percent

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