

THIS FALL
THE VERY
BEST OF

devour: the best
breakfasts
and now open

imbibe: well-crafted
cocktails

relax: at your
fingertips

Sister Act

A.KITCHEN HAS EARNED AN A+ FROM CITY RESIDENTS, AND NOW IT HAS A COMPANION AT AKA RITTENHOUSE SQUARE, A.BAR. BY ALEXANDRA LESHNER

In our city's ever-growing dining scene, it's not uncommon to see a restaurateur follow up one successful eatery by opening another. For David Fields, food and beverage director at AKA, which operates a.kitchen and its recently debuted "little sister," a.bar, creating a sequel to his thriving European-style bistro was about finding a balance between consistency and distinctiveness. "We wanted people to recognize that a.kitchen and a.bar shared the same sensibilities of a timeless, modern design with comfort and casualness," he says. But "a.bar has a different concept, [so as to] not directly compete with a.kitchen, while providing an alternative for both our AKA residents and the city." The intimate setting of a.bar, with dark-stained white oak accents and a 17-seat pewter bronze bar, perfectly complements the refined and sophisticated menu offerings. "We came up with the idea of a raw bar serving oysters, charcuterie, and other items,

such as scallop crudo and a couple of crostini dishes with anchovy and parsley toast," says Fields. "And of course, we had to have an awesome shrimp cocktail, so we're doing that, too." Needless to say, it couldn't be called a.bar without thirst-quenching drinks, of which there are plenty. Seasonally inspired cocktails and craft brews are interspersed throughout an intriguing lineup of sparkling wines, which Fields praises as "the most interesting list in the city." With its prime location overlooking Rittenhouse Square, you would be hard-pressed to find a cozier spot to stop in for an evening drink or sit down for a relaxed afternoon lunch. "A.bar is designed to be a great place to chill, [have] some drinks or wine, and snack on seafood with friends," Fields says. "As always, we're aiming for a compelling eating and drinking experience that stands out." *AKA Rittenhouse Square, 135 S. 18th St., 215-825-7035; stayaka.com. PS*