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‘Edwins Too’ to take over Fire Food and Drink space in Shaker Square

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Brandon Chrostowski is moving his latest concept into the space formerly occupied by Fire Food and Drink, which recently closed. The new restaurant will be called Edwins Too. The Plain Dealer

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By [Marc Bona, cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com)

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Brandon Chrostowski has signed a six-month deal with a five-year option to operate [Edwins Too](#), a new restaurant in the Shaker Square space formerly occupied by Fire Food and Drink.

Chrostowski's flagship fine-dining French restaurant, [Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute](#), shares space in the same complex with Fire, which restaurateur Doug Katz recently closed during the coronavirus pandemic.

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Edwins Too will offer prix-fixe, three-, five- and seven-course options with a European-centric flair. Vegan choices and wine flights also will be available, he said, along with a high-end brunch.

While many restaurants are struggling or closing, Chrostowski felt the timing – while not perfect – offers an important opportunity.

“This one is really big time,” Chrostowski said. “It’s going to be fun.”

The lease starts Thursday, Oct. 1, and Chrostowski has been spearheading the transition for the restaurant to open around the end of November, he said.

The impetus for expanding during challenging economic times fits with his mission. Chrostowski said Edwins has been doing brisk business resulting from a combination of factors: Diners have wanted to be outside in recent weeks, space inside is limited, and he believes many of Edwins' customers are not going to Europe or New York with travel restrictions in place.

“This is about something totally different,” said Chrostowski, who added he has “55 people fired up to learn, to grow.”

He added: “It’s about our staff and students, and the growth. I know we can do it. It’s probably not the best time, but it’s the right time to provide for others.”

He is referring to the fact that Edwins hires recently released incarcerated individuals, training them in culinary and hospitality skills. Chrostowski operates a life-skills campus in Cleveland’s Buckeye neighborhood, along with a diner, bakery and butcher shop. This year he started a management-training program, which some of the Edwins Too workers have gone through.

The training, hard-nosed but with respect, has paid off: The recidivism rate of his employees is about 1%.

When coronavirus hit, Chrostowski rolled a grill outside and began doing what he knows best: Non-stop hustling. It worked. The customers haven’t stopped coming.

But as patio season has dwindled and his indoor space remains limited by social-distancing restrictions, he said to himself “I’ve got to do something – why not?”

That something is his latest concept, which will be open Friday through Sunday. He plans to bring in guest chefs – nationally and locally known – each month. Private weekday dining can be booked for lunch and dinner.

Edwins Too – which will be at 13220 Shaker Square, Cleveland – will operate with social-distancing guidelines and follow sanitization and deep-cleaning protocols. Air purification also will be put in place, critical as cold-weather months are coming, creating yet another challenge for restaurants and bars in the new culinary world order.

Chrostowski’s second-chance mission has been well-documented. In 2017, the short documentary “Knife Skills” was released, chronicling the founding of the French restaurant, which opened almost seven years ago exactly. He consulted on the opening of [Serenite](#), a restaurant located in the Recovery Center of Medina County, and on Ohio City Pizzeria, run by the [West Side Catholic Center](#).

“I want to give Clevelanders an experience they deserve,” he said. “I couldn’t be more proud to be here.”

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