

Food & dining

Amsterdam Falafelshop coming to Kenmore

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MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

The variety of condiments offered at Amsterdam Falafelshop in Davis Square.

Amsterdam Falafelshop is coming to Kenmore Square. Moving into the former Boca Grande space, at 642 Beacon St., it is slated to open at the end of the year. The first local outpost of the franchise, which started in D.C., arrived in Somerville's Davis Square in 2012. It quickly won a following for its Middle Eastern sandwiches and bountiful toppings bar.

The menu, which also includes fries, will be exactly the same at the Kenmore branch, but the restaurant will have 40 seats, about twice as many as in Davis.

The two shops are likely only the beginning for Amsterdam in the Boston area. Operators Matt D'Alessio and Laurence Wintersteen want to create the falafel shop version of Anna's Taqueria or Boloco. Says D'Alessio, they are targeting "successful trade areas with very similar dense urban populations surrounded by college students." Also on Amsterdam's radar: Downtown Crossing, Coolidge Corner, Packard's Corner, and -- at the top of the list -- Central Square.

Central is where Clover Food Lab plans to open shop in the coming months, in the space that was long occupied by Hi-Fi Pizza. One of Clover's signature items: the chickpea fritter, a falafel doppelganger. Moody's Falafel Palace is also a neighborhood establishment. Downtown Crossing is home to Falafel King, and Coolidge Corner has multiple falafel shops -- proving that coexistence is possible.

Let the pita wars begin.

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