

"We want to bring in the story of Amedeo Obici," said Mullins, "but without making it all about him." Amedeo's will amount to a bit of a departure for the Mullins, both in cuisine and in how they put together their restaurant. "I'm learning Italian as we go," Teresa Mullins laughed.

Each of the Mullins' projects up to now has been built from the foundations; the most recent was the marina at Bennett's Creek home to Decoy's, which took years to build. But the space at 3800 Acqua was too good to pass up, Mullins said, both because of the growing population of Suffolk, and the location's easy access to Norfolk, Chesapeake and the Peninsula.

"This project will be a much faster pace, but we're still going to be able to do things the way we like to do them," Mullins said.

Even in a more contemporary space, there will be plenty of hardwood and warm details, much like the other restaurants run by their company M & M Hospitality.

In part because of the pandemic — and in part because of the large apartment complex where the restaurant is located — there will nonetheless be a large emphasis on takeout and grab-and-go options, sold in the small cafe and grocery area.