

10th January 2008

Tragus reports good Christmas and New Year trading

Tragus Group Limited (Tragus), one of the largest mid-market restaurant chain operators in the UK, today reports on trading for the four weeks to 6th January 2008. Following a year of strategic acquisitions, Tragus' integration programme for the Strada acquisition continues on track with the two head offices merging prior to Christmas and full accounting integration anticipated by the end of May 2008. These operational initiatives have driven strong synergies and consistent controls and standards across the enlarged group. Combined with the ongoing investment in brand development, Tragus continues to benefit from strong customer demand for all of its restaurants.

Highlights:

- Total sales, including new sites, for the four weeks to 6th January 2008 across the Group rose by 24.7%
- Like-for-like sales for the Christmas and New Year period for the four weeks to 6th January 2008 for the Group's key brands of Café Rouge, Strada and Bella Italia (174 restaurants) up by 4.5%
- Integration of Strada on track with strong synergies and control benefits
- Ongoing roll out programme continues with a total of 27 new restaurant openings since May 07 and a further five on site since the end of December 07.

Outlook:

- Huxleys Bar & Kitchen, new British dining concept, to launch in Heathrow's T5 development in March 2008
- Café Rouge and Strada continue to be well regarded by developers, therefore driving strong pipeline of sites for FY08 and FY09 with circa 38 new openings planned during FY08
- Over 20 new sites planned for FY09 with nine sites already exchanged and a further ten identified

Graham Turner, CEO of Tragus, said: "As we continue to invest in the development of our key concepts, we are pleased to see the ongoing demand for our brands. Christmas is always an important period and a barometer of the nation's financial health. This year has seen a more challenging trading period than that of a year ago but our affordable all day offer and portfolio of brands continue to have a broad appeal and we see no change in the overall long term demand for casual dining."

Enquiries

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Notes to Editors

Tragus Group Limited ("Tragus") is one of the largest mid-market restaurant chain operators in the UK, with over 260 sites across the country serving over 16 million meals every year. Tragus operates primarily under the Café Rouge, Bella Italia and Strada formats in the UK. www.tragusgroup.com

Café Rouge (99 sites), www.caferouge.co.uk

Café Rouge is the UK's only established national French restaurant brand, with sites designed to provide the look and feel of a classic Parisian bistro and a menu that includes steak frites, moules and tarte tatin. Café Rouge is predominantly a high street brand but it also operates successfully within a retail and concessionary environment.

Bella Italia (75 sites), www.bellaitalia.co.uk

Bella Italia is an all-day Italian trattoria with a rustic ambience. Its restaurants are in prime locations predominantly on the high street but it also operates from leisure park sites. In addition to classic pizzas and pasta its broad menu also includes a range of grill, main courses, sandwiches and salads.

Strada (62 Sites), www.strada.co.uk

Strada is a group of contemporary Italian restaurants located on the high street serving good quality, simple, freshly prepared dishes using the finest seasonal produce available. The menu offers hand stretched pizzas, fresh pastas, risotto and grilled meat and fish dishes.

Belgo (5 sites) www.belgo-restaurants.com

Belgo and Bierodrome offer traditional Belgian food accompanied by the widest selection of Belgian beers in funky surroundings.

Ortega (7 sites), www.ortegatapas.co.uk

Ortega is a tapas bar and cantina with a unique atmosphere that captures all the passion and spirit of eating and drinking in Spain. Ortega offers an extensive and authentic tapas offering along with delicious paellas, steaks and seafood main courses. The bar serves traditional Spanish drinks such as Sangria alongside a selection of wines, lagers and classic cocktails.

Brasseries (12 sites)

Tragus also operates 13 brasseries under the brands Amalfi, Oriel, Potters and Abbaye.

Huxleys Bar & Kitchen (1 site)

Huxleys Bar and Kitchen is the new Great British food offering with traditional British food ranging from kedgeriee and kiln smoked Scottish salmon to steak and kidney pudding, ploughman's lunch, classic sandwiches and grilled steaks. The bar offers a full range of wines from across the world in addition to a classic selection of beers, ales and spirits. The first Huxleys is due to open in March 2008 at the Heathrow T5 development.