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Tragus acquires Ma Potter's restaurant chain

Tragus Limited, one of the largest mid-market restaurant chain operators in the UK, is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Ma Potter's chain of restaurants for £14.15M.

The purchase will include the 16 sites in the Ma Potter's group, including Ma Potter's Chargrills and Ma Potters Bar Restaurant formats across high street and shopping centre locations throughout the UK.

Tragus, acquired by Blackstone Group Limited in December 2006, has a fast-growing portfolio of restaurant brands throughout Britain and continues to pursue its organic growth plans as well as reviewing acquisition opportunities. It is anticipated that a number of the Ma Potter's sites will be converted to the group's key brands, Café Rouge and Bella Italia. It is the group's intention to review the remaining Ma Potters outlets and enhance their operation as part of the larger Tragus Group.

Graham Turner, CEO of Tragus, said: "As we continue to develop our core restaurant brands across the UK we are pleased to find acquisition opportunities to accelerate our growth. This is an excellent opportunity to increase our presence in key UK locations"

Enquiries

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Notes to Editors

Tragus Limited (Tragus) is one of the largest mid-market restaurant chain operators in the UK, with 163 sites across the country serving over 12 million meals every year. Tragus operates primarily under the Café Rouge and Bella Italia formats in the UK. www.tragusholdings.com

Café Rouge (87 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 (68 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.

Ortega (4 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 (4 sites)

Tragus also operates 4 brasseries under the brands Amalfi, Oriel and Abbaye.

Blackstone Group Limited

The Blackstone Group, a global private investment and advisory firm, was founded in 1985. The firm has raised a total of more than \$67 billion for alternative asset investing since its formation of which approximately \$30 billion has been for private equity investing. The Private Equity Group is currently investing its fifth general private equity fund with commitments of \$15.6 billion, and has over 60 experienced professionals with broad sector expertise. Blackstone's other core businesses include Private Real Estate Investing, Corporate Debt Investing, Hedge Funds, Mutual Fund Management, Private Placement, Marketable Alternative Asset Management, and Investment Banking Advisory Services. Further information is available at <http://www.blackstone.com>.