

19<sup>th</sup> January 2006

### **Tragus reports strong Christmas performance**

Tragus Group Holdings Limited (Tragus), one of the largest mid-market restaurant chain operators in the UK, is pleased to report continued strong trading over the all important Christmas and New Year period for the six weeks to 8th January 2006.

- Total sales across the Group rose by 13.3%
- Like-for-like sales up by 8.9%
  - Central London up 3.5%
  - Outside London up 9.7%
- Central London recovering from the effects of the security situation in the second half of the year
- Exceptional Christmas week benefiting from Christmas falling on a Sunday this year. This effect, as is to be expected, evened out over the six-week period
- The strongest performance has come from high street restaurants driven by office workers along with leisure park locations
- Weekly sales records were broken in 45 restaurants across the estate during the six week period
- Continued improvement in our customers' rating of our brands as we invest further in menu development and service training
- New sites performing well ahead of expectations, average cash return on capital invested of over 40%
- New openings on schedule with restaurants in Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, London and Sheffield due to open in the first five months of 2006
- Strong pipeline of sites created for the next 18 months
- Opportunity to double the size of the Café Rouge estate from its current level of 82 units

The Group's Café Rouge restaurants sustained their excellent performance, with like for like sales growth of 11.3% in the six weeks to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Bella Italia continued to benefit from the brand's repositioning with like for like sales increasing 6.1% over the same period.

Graham Turner, CEO of Tragus, said: "Our restaurants across the UK have recorded a strong performance demonstrating the enduring appeal of our brands and the improving consumer demand over the festive season. We continue to seek further opportunities to develop the Tragus portfolio and are optimistic that the year ahead will see the Group extend its reach within the all-day casual dining arena."

### **Enquiries**

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## **Notes to Editors**

Tragus Group Holdings Limited (Tragus) is one of the largest mid-market restaurant chain operators in the UK, with 161 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.