

MINT TO BOLSTER ITS RESTAURANT PORTFOLIO WITH ACQUISITION OF NON-U.S. OPERATION OF BENIHANA



Minor International (“MINT”) announced today that it has purchased a 75% stake in Benihana Holdings Pte. Ltd. (“Benihana”). Joining MINT’s restaurant network is a portfolio of 19 Benihana restaurants in 12 countries across Europe, Asia, Middle East and North America.

Benihana was founded in 1964 and today is the world’s leading Japanese-inspired teppanyaki restaurant chain. Following the transaction, MINT will hold the global trademark and IP rights for Benihana in Asia (excluding the islands of Japan), Middle East, Europe, Australia, Africa, Canada and Mexico. Benihana’s portfolio also includes two owned restaurants in Piccadilly and Chelsea in London, and another 17 franchised restaurants in the UK, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Canada, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Indonesia and Thailand (MINT is the franchisee of three stores in Thailand).

Dillip Rajakarier, COO of Minor International, commented, “We are very excited to welcome this iconic restaurant chain to our portfolio. We believe the Benihana brand and its restaurant network are highly strategic to us as we continue to drive scalable expansion of our international businesses. Furthermore, the investment is accretive to our shareholders with an attractive valuation and immediate earnings contribution. We look forward to taking advantage of this opportunity to cement our leading position in the global restaurant industry.”

Paul Kenny, CEO Minor Food, said, “The transaction represents a significant milestone in Minor Food’s global expansion. We are very excited by the opportunity to accelerate our global footprints, which now span six continents and 27 countries. Benihana’s strong brand recognition and distinctive restaurant experience, paired with Minor Food’s expertise in operational excellence and franchising, plus its well-established platform in the UK, will accelerate the growth of Benihana portfolio throughout our ever-expanding operating geography.”

Keiko Ono Aoki, Trustee of RHA Testamentary Trust, said, “We are thrilled to take this longstanding partnership to the next level. Minor has almost 30 years of proven success operating Benihana-franchised restaurants in Thailand. We are confident that the Minor Food team can replicate the same success in other markets worldwide. I look forward to building on Minor Food’s restaurant network to grow Benihana brand globally.”

MINT’s investment replaces previous shareholding by RHA Testamentary Trust. The Trust will retain a 25% shareholding in Benihana in partnership with MINT.

About Minor International: Minor International (MINT) is a global company focused on three core businesses: restaurants, hospitality and lifestyle brands distribution. MINT is one of Asia’s largest restaurant companies with over 2,000 outlets operating system-wide in 20 countries under The Pizza Company, Swensen’s, Sizzler, Dairy Queen, Burger King, Thai Express, The Coffee

Club, BreadTalk (Thailand) and Riverside brands. MINT is also a hotel owner, operator and investor with a portfolio of 161 hotels and serviced suites under the Anantara, AVANI, Oaks, Tivoli, Elewana, Marriott, Four Seasons, St. Regis, Radisson Blu, The Beaumont and Minor International brands in 26 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Europe and South America. MINT is one of Thailand's largest distributors of lifestyle brands and contract manufacturing. Its brands include Gap, Banana Republic, Brooks Brothers, Esprit, Bossini, Etam, OVS, Radley, Anello, Charles & Keith, Pedro, Zwilling J.A. Henckels, Joseph Joseph and Minor Smart Kids. For more information, please visit www.minorinternational.com.

About Benihana Holdings: Benihana Holdings (Benihana) is a leading Japanese-inspired teppanyaki restaurant chain with headquarter in the UK. Benihana pioneered the communal dining concept, combining dazzling performance and teppanyaki cooking of freshest ingredients in front of diners. Benihana is an owner of two restaurants in London, the UK, and franchises 17 restaurants in 12 countries, including the UK, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Canada, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Thailand and Indonesia. For more information, please visit www.benihana.co.uk.

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