

LUSSMANN'S

FISH & GRILL

NEWS RELEASE – 27 April 2016

Entrepreneur Luke Johnson invests in Lusmanns Fish & Grill Restaurants



Luke Johnson



Andrei Lussmann

Luke Johnson has invested in Lusmanns Fish & Grill, becoming a major shareholder and joining the Board of Directors of the independent, Hertfordshire-based restaurant group, which is opening a fourth site in Hitchin in June and planning for a fifth restaurant later this year.

The well-known entrepreneur and Chairman of private equity house Risk Capital Partners brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from his impressive portfolio of hospitality businesses, which currently includes Gaucho, Patisserie Holdings, Bread Ltd (Gail's Artisan Bakery), Feng Sushi, 3Sixty Restaurants, Genuine Dining, Draft House, Grand Union and Small Batch Coffee.

Previously Chairman of PizzaExpress, where Andrei Lussmann gained much of his own early experience in hospitality, Luke Johnson grew the business from 12 restaurants to over 150. He started Signature Restaurants, which owned The Ivy, J.Sheekey and Le Caprice, as well as the Belgo chain, and developed the Strada restaurant concept from scratch through to 30 sites before selling the business.

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Alongside his business interests, Luke Johnson is a former Chairman of Channel 4 Television Corporation and The Royal Society of Arts. He currently serves as Chairman of a number of charities and interest groups, writes a popular weekly column for The Sunday Times and is the author of several books, including *“Start It Up: Why Running Your Own Business Is Easier Than You Think”*.

Andrei Lussmann, founder and managing director of Lussmanns, explained the benefits of this new partnership: *“Luke Johnson is well known in the restaurant world and his involvement signals a more ambitious approach to making sustainable dining a commercial reality on today’s high street.*

“His depth of insight, commercial nous and capital will support Lussmanns in its ever evolving journey. I am personally delighted by his arrival and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that we shall face together.”

Luke Johnson said: *“I love Andrei’s restaurants, and think they offer affordable neighbourhood dining at its best. I’m glad to be partnering with him in this venture.”*

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For more information about Luke Johnson, visit lukejohnson.org & www.riskcapitalpartners.co.uk

About Lussmanns Fish & Grill Restaurants

- Lussmanns is the locals' fish & grill restaurant. Proudly independent, we bring ethical and sustainable dining to the high street in St Albans, Hertford and Harpenden. We will open a new restaurant in Hitchin in June 2016.
- Giles Coren, food critic for *The Times*, described Lussmanns as *‘everything a modern local restaurant should be’* and rated us 8/10.
- We have been recommended by *The Good Food Guide* since 2010.
- We were voted ‘People’s Favourite’ at the national Food Made Good Awards 2016 and described by the awards partner, the Independent on Sunday as *‘Ethical, delicious and preach-free’*.
- We are founder members of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), SRA Three Star Sustainability Champions and won UK Sustainable Small Restaurant Group of the Year at the SRA Awards 2014 & 2015.
- We are rated as one of the UK’s top restaurants by [Fish2Fork](#), the campaign for sustainable fish.
- For more information, including supplier details, please visit our website at www.lussmanns.com, join us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/LussmannsRestaurants> and twitter @lussmanns and @AndreiLussmann.

For further information on this news release please contact:

Lis Coulthard, marketing and pr for Lussmanns Fish & Grill - lis@lussmanns.com or 07583 420402

Andrei Lussmann, managing director of Lussmanns Fish & Grill – andrei@lussmanns.com or 07974 910619

Lusmanns St Albans: Waxhouse Gate, St Albans, Herts, AL3 4EW Tel: 01727 851941 Manager: Hollie Smith
Lusmanns Hertford: 42 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1BY Tel: 01992 505329 Manager: Carlos Avalos Guerrero
Lusmanns Harpenden: 20a Leyton Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2HU Tel: 01582 965393 Manager: Paul Vogt
Lusmanns Hitchin: 25B-26 Sun St, Hitchin SG5 1AH. Opening June 2016.