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The ONE Group Accelerates Growth of Benihana Express with Launch of National Licensing Program

Iconic Benihana Brand Expands into Premium Fast-Casual Dining with a Scalable, Flexible Format Designed for High-Traffic Locations

DENVER--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- The ONE Group Hospitality, Inc. (“The ONE Group” or the “Company”) (Nasdaq: STKS) today announced the launch of a licensing program for Benihana Express, its premium fast-casual concept that brings the iconic flavors and culinary heritage of Benihana to a convenient, contemporary dining format. Designed for flexibility, operational simplicity and scalability, Benihana Express creates new opportunities for experienced operators and developers to introduce one of America’s most recognizable restaurant brands to traditional and nontraditional dining destinations.

“Benihana is one of the most iconic and recognizable restaurant brands in America, and Benihana Express represents an exciting opportunity to bring the flavors our guests love to more people, in more places, more often,” said Emanuel “Manny” Hilario, President and CEO of The ONE Group. “With its flexible footprint, streamlined operating model and broad consumer appeal, we believe Benihana Express has the potential to become a significant growth engine for our Company and a cornerstone of our asset-light expansion strategy.”

Built for scalability and operational efficiency, Benihana Express features a streamlined operating model designed for spaces of approximately 800 to 1,000 square feet. Its flexible format is suited for a wide range of traditional and nontraditional locations, including storefronts, airports, sports and entertainment venues, travel hubs and other high-traffic destinations. Licensees benefit from the strength of the Benihana brand, supported by established brand standards, restaurant design guidance, menu development, culinary systems, training, marketing and supply chain resources.

Benihana Express brings the bold flavors and signature hibachi favorites of Benihana to a fast, convenient and craveable dining experience. The menu features premium ingredients, including filet mignon and colossal shrimp, alongside made-to-order hibachi rice bowls, hibachi burritos and signature sauces. Guests can also choose from protein-forward meals, low-carb options, cauliflower fried rice, salads and vegetarian selections, along with appetizers and desserts. Designed for today’s lifestyles, Benihana Express offers the flexibility to dine in, take out or enjoy delivery.

The ONE Group continues to build momentum behind Benihana Express, recently opening its second company-owned location in Denver, Colorado. The concept's first storefront prototype in Miami, Florida, is performing above the Company's expectations. By year-end 2026, The ONE Group expects to open an additional company-owned restaurant at Topanga Mall in Canoga Park, California, along with a licensed location in Islamorada, Florida, demonstrating the concept's versatility across company-operated and licensed formats.

For more information on Benihana Express, visit www.benihanaexpress.com. Operators and developers interested in licensing Benihana Express can submit an inquiry at www.benihanaexpress.com/licensing-inquiry or contact franchise@behihana.com.

About The ONE Group

The ONE Group Hospitality, Inc. (Nasdaq: STKS) is an international restaurant company that develops and operates upscale and polished casual, high-energy restaurants and lounges and provides hospitality management services for hotels, casinos and other high-end venues both in the U.S. and internationally. The ONE Group is recognized as one of "America's Greatest Companies" (Newsweek, 2025), and Benihana is honored as one of "America's Best Brands for Value" (Forbes, 2025). The ONE Group's focus is to be the global leader in Vibe Dining, and its primary restaurant brands and operations are:

- **STK**, a modern twist on the American steakhouse concept with restaurants in major metropolitan cities in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East, featuring premium steaks, seafood and specialty cocktails in an energetic upscale atmosphere.
- **Benihana**, an interactive dining destination with highly skilled chefs preparing food right in front of guests and served in an energetic atmosphere alongside fresh sushi and innovative cocktails. The Company franchises Benihanas in the U.S., Caribbean, Central America, and South America.
- **Samurai**, an interactive dining experience located in sunny Miami, FL, provides a distinctive dining experience where skilled personal chefs masterfully perform the ancient art of teppanyaki right before your eyes.
- **Kona Grill**, a polished casual, bar-centric Grill concept with restaurants in the U.S., featuring American favorites, award-winning sushi, and specialty cocktails in an upscale casual atmosphere.
- **Salt Water Social**, your gateway to the seven seas, featuring an array of signature and unique fresh seafood items, complemented by the highest quality beef dishes and elegant, delicious cocktails.
- **Benihana Express**, a small footprint premium fast casual concept bringing the best food of Benihana on the go.
- **RA**, a Japanese fusion cuisine concept that offers a fun-filled, bar-forward, upbeat, and vibrant dining atmosphere with restaurants in the U.S. anchored by creative sushi, inventive drinks, and outstanding service.
- **ONE Hospitality**, The ONE Group's food and beverage hospitality services business develops, manages and operates premier restaurants and turnkey food and beverage services within high-end hotels and casinos currently operating venues in the U.S. and Europe.

Additional information about The ONE Group can be found at www.togrp.com.

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