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Puente Hills Benihana Reopens With Award-Winning Makeover

PUENTE HILLS, Calif. (January 5, 2009) – Benihana, the American leader in Japanese restaurants, has completed an award-winning makeover of its Puente Hills restaurant. The new design invites guests to enjoy the restaurant's famous teppanyaki and sushi menu in a striking environment inspired by Japanese culture and architecture.

Drawing inspiration from the company's original roots in "Chikara," the Japanese word for power and energy, the design puts the customer at the center of the Benihana experience by appealing to all the senses: taste, sight, sound, aroma, touch and energy. Highlights of the Puente Hills Benihana include darkened ceilings and floors, theatrical lighting, bold reds, organic textures and graphics.

"Southern California is one of our biggest markets and we are delighted to be reopening our Puente Hills restaurant," said Joel Schwartz, Chairman and CEO of Benihana.

Benihana loyalists will enjoy the classic menu offerings including tender steaks, juicy chicken and succulent shrimp all prepared and served by entertaining chefs before guests seated at teppanyaki tables. The sushi menu offers delicious innovations and the sake menu highlights a great selection.

"We're happy to have our doors open again to serve the Puente Hills area," said restaurant manager Andrew Wong. "Our enthusiastic crew looks forward to serving guests the freshest food in a fun, relaxing environment."

The Puente Hills restaurant features 22 teppanyaki tables, a sushi bar and lounge seating, and is open during lunch and dinner hours seven days a week. The restaurant is located in the Plaza at Puente Hills at 17877 Gale Ave. in the City of Industry. The Plaza at Puente Hills is a high-traffic shopping and entertainment center.

About Benihana

Benihana Inc. (NASDAQ GS: BNHN and BNHNA) operates 62 Benihana teppanyaki restaurants, nine Haru restaurants, and twenty-two RA Sushi restaurants. Under development at present are eleven restaurants: six Benihana teppanyaki restaurants and five RA Sushi restaurants. In addition, twenty franchised Benihana teppanyaki restaurants are operating in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean.

Puente Hills Restaurant Facts:

Address: 17877 Gale Ave.
City of Industry, CA 91748

Phone: 626-912-8784

Restaurant Manager: Andrew Wong

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