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Excellence in Pub & Bar Retailing Conference

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Headline Sponsor


ONE MOORGATE PLACE, LONDON EC2R 6EA ~ WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2025

Tickets are £295+VAT for operators, £345+VAT for suppliers.
20% discount for operators and suppliers who are Premium Club members.
Email: kai.kirkman@propelinfo.com to book places.

★ ★ ★ **SPEAKER SCHEDULE** ★ ★ ★

9.00am – 10.00am: Registration and coffee

10.00am – 10.30am: Stephen Owens, managing director – pubs and restaurants at Christie & Co, sets the scene for the market, with an update on sector valuations, price expectations, market sentiment, who the buyers and sellers are, and what's in store for the year ahead.

10.30am – 11.00am: Mark Bentley, business development director at HDI, talks about the areas where the pub sector is and has been performing strongly and where the opportunities are for the sector to drive growth.

11.00am – 11.20am: Harry Gurney, co-founder of the Cat & Wickets Pub Company, with England cricketer Stuart Broad, discusses building the award-winning business, and how it is now looking to grow and become a "genuine multi-site operator".

11.20am – 11.40am: Public House Group founders Phil Winser and James Gummer, who own the Pelican in Notting Hill, The Hero in Maida and the Bull in Charlbury, the Cotswolds, on how two endangered British industries – pubs and farming – can survive by helping each other.

11.40am – 12.00pm: Chickpea Group founder Ethan Davids on balancing growing a wet-led vehicle, Great Boozers, which he founded with TV sandwich chef Max Halley in 2021, and expanding the company's pubs with room concept.

12.00pm – 1.00pm: Lunch

1.00pm – 1.30pm: Anna-Marie Mason, divisional director – Mitchells & Butlers Premium Division, discusses the evolution of the group's Vintage Inns, Premium Country Pubs and Miller & Carter brands, with a special focus on the resurgence of the latter steakhouse concept.

1.30pm – 2.00pm: Richard Colclough, co-founder of Paragon Group, the award-winning premium gastropub operator, talks about operating across multiple formats, and the development and potential of the company's Mediterranean all-day dining concept, Willow.

2.00pm – 2.30pm: Martin Wolstencroft, chief executive of Arc Inspirations, the premium bar operator, talks about how the award-winning company strives to deliver an elevated experience across all areas of its business and how it plans to almost double its estate over the next five years.

2.30pm – 3.00pm: Coffee Break

3.00pm – 3.30pm: Simon Emeny, chief executive of Fuller's, talks to Mark Wingett about how the company is facing the challenge of appealing to an evolving consumer base, without compromising on its premium ethos.

3.30pm – 4.00pm: Gavin George, founder and former chief executive of Laine Pub Company, looks back on his near 30 years in the sector, what he learnt, his achievements and mistakes, and how he hopes to see the industry evolve.

4.00pm – 4.30pm: Sir Tim Martin, founder and chair of JD Wetherspoon discusses how the company plans to double its sales to £4bn in the next ten years after passing the £2bn mark last year and why his business is a true melting pot of consumers.

4.30pm – 5.15pm: Jonathon Swaine, managing director of Shepherd Neame, Charlie McVeigh non-executive director at the Revel Collective, Oisín Rogers, co-founder of The Devonshire, and Joycelyn Neve, founder and managing director Seafood Pub Company, talk about the challenge the sector faces in attracting new customers, ways in which the sector can go about evolving to do just that, and whether loyalty schemes can play a part.

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Terms and conditions: Places are secured on receipt of payment only, are non-refundable but are transferable to a colleague if you are unable to attend.