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Benihana Opens in Columbus, Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Feb. 27, 2009) – Benihana, the American leader in teppanyaki-style dining, has unveiled its new restaurant in Columbus, Ohio offering a menu of tender steaks, juicy chicken and succulent shrimp prepared and served by entertaining chefs before guests seated at teppanyaki tables. The restaurant also features a sushi menu with delicious innovations and a sake menu with selections typically found only in Japan.

The Columbus restaurant, Benihana Inc.'s 64th teppanyaki restaurant, boasts a design that invites guests to enjoy the restaurant's famous teppanyaki and sushi menu in a striking environment inspired by traditional 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 Columbus Benihana include darkened ceilings and floors, theatrical lighting, bold reds, organic textures and graphics.

"We are excited to introduce Columbus to the Benihana experience and look forward to delighting guests with the excellent food, great service and amazing entertainment that have defined our restaurants for 45 years," said Richard C. Stockinger, CEO of Benihana.

To commemorate 45 years as America's favorite Japanese restaurant, Benihana treats guests to a \$45 Dinner for Two Anniversary Special throughout 2009 (see www.benihana.com for details).

The Columbus restaurant features 18 teppanyaki tables and is open during lunch and dinner hours seven days a week. The new restaurant is located at 8781 Lyra Drive, near Polaris Fashion Place, Central Ohio's largest mall. For reservations, please call 614-436-3705.

About Benihana

Benihana Inc. (NASDAQ GS: BNHN and BNHNA) operates 64 Benihana teppanyaki restaurants, nine Haru restaurants, and twenty-two RA Sushi restaurants. Under development at present are nine restaurants: four Benihana teppanyaki restaurants and five RA Sushi restaurants. In addition, twenty-one franchised Benihana teppanyaki restaurants are operating in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean.

Columbus Restaurant Facts:

Address: 8781 Lyra Drive
Columbus, OH 43240

Phone: 614-436-3705

Restaurant Manager: Jose Ilagan

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