PRESS RELEASE

Awarded once again – VAPIANO receives prestigious CEE Retail Award 2018

- After receiving an award in 2017, the lifestyle brand and restaurant chain VAPIANO has received a prominent CEE Retail Award for the second time in a row, this time in the "Food & Beverage Retailer" category
- The CEE Retail Awards, hosted by EuropaProperty, are awarded annually to highly successful companies from the retail sector in Central and Eastern Europe across a range of categories
- The tenth annual CEE Retail Awards ceremony took place on the 8th February, 2018, at the InterContinental Hotel in Warsaw and was attended by 450 guests

Cologne, February 2018 –The CEE Retail Awards were awarded, for the tenth time, on the 8th of February, 2018, in Warsaw, Poland. Amongst the winners, was VAPIANO – the globally successful, casual dining chain and lifestyle brand. VAPIANO was selected by an international jury, made up of representatives from real estate companies, retail chains, law firms and financial and media companies, as the winner in the "Food & Beverage Retailer" category. This year's CEE Retail Awards, hosted again by EuropaProperty – the region's leading real-estate publisher, celebrated the most successful companies in Central and Eastern Europe, across a total of 32 categories and was attended by around 450 real estate experts.

"Being awarded the CEE Retail Award this year, in the category – "Food & Beverage Retail" fills us with pride for 2018. The fact that we were chosen by the jury, is a great recognition of our expansion efforts, but especially the work of our franchise partners and the entire VAPIANO expansion team," says Jochen Halfmann, CEO of VAPIANO SE.
"Since opening our 200th restaurant last December, we are now active in 33 countries on five continents and thus are set on our way to further growth and success. In 2018, we are planning to open in a further 30 to 35 new locations – in London, Miami and Doha." In 2017, the lifestyle brand and restaurant chain received the award in the category "Cafe / Food Retailer."

One Gala, 32 Awards, 450 Guests: The 10th Anniversary of the CEE Retail Award as an industry benchmark

Before the event, the hosts – EuropaProperty, said they were proud to host the 10th annual Awards Gala, the region's premier retail awards event as the awards are "heralded as the industry's benchmark for retail success in Central and Eastern Europe." *

It was a night dedicated to celebrating the most successful companies in the CEE region. In addition to VAPIANO, renowned companies such as coffee shop retailer – Etno Cafe and the supermarket chain– Carrefour were also amongst the winners this year. The award ceremony itself, was preceded by a day of lively panel discussions about the retail markets in Central and Eastern Europe.

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About VAPIANO

The German gastronomic lifestyle brand VAPIANO founded a new category for dining in 2002 with its innovative "Fresh Casual Dining" concept. It combines elements of "fast casual" and "casual dining "offering guests a lot of choice. Quality, freshness and transparency are the basis of the restaurant concept. VAPIANO almost exclusively uses fresh ingredients. In many VAPIANO restaurants, pasta, pizza dough, sauces, dressings, and dolci, are all produced on-site, sometimes in the middle of the dining room in the glass Manifattura. The food is prepared right in front of the guest in the show kitchen "à la minute." This, coupled with the restaurant's signature cosmopolitan ambience, are the two most important ingredients in the company's recipe for success. The successful concept quickly spread from Hamburg throughout the rest of the world. For more information, visit http://www.vapiano.com/, facebook.com/vapiano and twitter.com/vapiano.

*CEE Retail Awards, URL: *http://www.retailawards.eu/,* as of February 2017.*

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