



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**CREMONINI: inauguration of on-line reservation of restaurant seating on-board Eurostar and Cisalpino trains.**

The service, the first in Europe, is available on [www.chefexpress.it](http://www.chefexpress.it) from today.

Commencing from today, Cremonini is offering, through its [www.chefexpress.it](http://www.chefexpress.it) Internet site, the possibility of reserving a seat in the restaurant car and choosing one's preferred menu on-line. This service is available on-board the 126 Eurostar trains that cover the entire country and the 16 Cisalpino trains that connect Italy with Switzerland.

The on-line reservation system, planned and developed by Cremonini to meet the needs of the growing number of railway passengers, is the first initiative of this type in Europe.

The reservation via Internet, which must be made at least 72 hours before departure, allows for selection of the departure and destination stations, the hour and date of the journey and a choice of menu.

Registration takes place through compilation of the appropriate fields and the system then sends an access password, which is necessary to complete the reservation, to the email address specified by the user.

Once the reservation has been made, the traveller will receive an email message confirming his reservation, which must be given to the Chef Express personnel in the restaurant car. Payment for the restaurant services will be made after the meal directly on-board the train, either in cash or by credit card.

**Cremonini**, the third European player in the sector of restaurant services on-board trains, manages the restaurant services on-board trains of Trenitalia S.p.A., the high-speed trains of the Swiss Railways (Cisalpino), the international routes of the French TGV connecting France to Italy, the trains on the Paris-Clermont Ferrand line and the trains known as "Ligne de coeur" that connect Paris to Zurich and Lausanne. Furthermore, through its subsidiary with the English Compass Group as partners, Cremonini manages the restaurant services on-board the 76 Eurostar Group trains that connect London's Waterloo Station with Paris and Brussels through the Eurotunnel.

In conclusion, Cremonini is the leader in restaurant services in the Italian railway stations, with 185 Refreshment Points managed as concessions in 28 stations, equal to a market share of 31.9% (source: Gira 2000).

The Restaurant Services Division of Cremonini S.p.A. - which serves a total of 60 million customers every year - is one of the most important operators in the sector of railway and commercial restaurant services in Europe, with over 2,000 employees and total revenues of Euro 85.5 million in the first six months of the year, up by about 59 % compared to the same period of the previous year.

**Cremonini**, with over 4,300 employees, is one of Europe's largest food groups, with activities focused in three areas of business: production, distribution to the food service sector and restaurant services.



The Group, with total revenues of Euro 1,388.7 million in 2000, is Italy's absolute leader in the production of beef and meat-based transformed products and the marketing/distribution of food products to the food service sector. Moreover, it has a significant presence in the restaurant services sector and, in particular, the leadership in Italy in restaurant services on-board trains and at railway stations.

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