

movers & shakers

THE HUMAN ANGLE

Name: Sole Nasi
Job title: marketing manager
Company: The Fresh Pasta Company
Sales: approaching £2m
HQ: London W14
Number of employees: 5



What's it like to work for your company? Fun, exciting and exhausting! We move fast and are always planning the next project.

Why is it a good employer? The product is the best in the market and Mark [Garcia-Oliver, MD] is the most passionate person you could ever work with. If you are faint-hearted, do not apply.

What's the best thing about working there? We go by results – there is no nine-to-five. Sometimes we have longer days, and sometimes we finish early and have a drink to celebrate a good day.

Does the company offer any unusual benefits? A trip to Lake Garda to check out the production... you really couldn't ask for a better place to go on a business trip.

How does the company differ from its rivals? We focus on quality of product and excellence in customer service, which makes us very proud of what we do. We have the best product on the market and our collection of awards speaks for itself.

Is there a definable company culture? Passion, passion, passion!

If the company were a car what would it be and why? A Ferrari, no doubt. It makes everyone's mouths water.

What's the training like and what qualifications can I earn? We do not offer qualifications, but there is thorough training regarding our products. Everyone in the team needs to be able to help our customers choose the products that best suit their business.

Has the company won any awards or been recognised in the past few years as an employer? We won the True Taste Award for best small manufacturer in 2004/5, only 10 months after we started – and again in 2006/7. Since then we have accumulated 35 awards in five years. We won the much-coveted Pizza and Pasta Association Industry Award last year, too.

What's your proudest achievement of the past 12 months? Last year, we started supplying Ocado and Waitrose.

Are you looking for any people right now and, if so, where? We are always looking for passionate team players who have a good understanding of our products, and are keen to join our sales team.

How does one go about applying for a job? Check out our website and send us a message. One of our best salespeople did just that and we offered him a job on the spot when we first met him.

What tips would you offer jobseekers? Understand our product and what our company is about. Know why you want to work with us and exactly what you have to offer.

Are you, or is the company, working on anything exciting right now that you can tell us about? We are working on a few new products that we will be launching shortly. If we tell you it won't be a surprise, but I can say that those who like making their own pasta or pizza at home will absolutely love it.

Compass aiming for 1,600 apprentices

Beth Phillips

Compass Group has set itself the ambitious target of offering 1,600 apprenticeship places in the next year.

The catering giant has been steadily increasing apprenticeships in recent years. Last year, it offered 950 places, and in 2009, it offered 750 places.

The apprenticeships are open to all site-based staff, including assistants, chefs, supervisors and managers. Subjects include professional cookery, hospitality supervision, leadership and management, cleaning, portering, business services and food and beverages.

Facilities management has also recently been added. Through the two-year programme, apprentices are assigned a mentor who provides advice, support and guidance. "Investing in people is incredibly impor-



The Compass apprenticeships are open to all site-based staff

tant in the service industry," said Vicky Williams, HR director, resourcing & development at Compass Group UK & Ireland.

"We believe in nurturing talent, providing experience and formal qualifications to create managers and leaders of the future. We were really pleased that some of Compass' apprentices joined the Mayor of

London Boris Johnson to mark both the national and Compass pledges."

Earlier this month, Johnson revealed that his campaign in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service had smashed its target of creating 20,000 apprenticeships. Some 28,120 people had found places on schemes, he said.

OTHER MOVERS

● Former Somerfield chairman John Lovering is the new chairman of the **Retail Trust**. Lovering, who has also been chairman of Homebase, Debenhams and Peacocks, takes up the role in September, replacing Dudley Cloake.

● Sainsbury's commercial director Mike Coupe has been made a non-executive director at brewing company **Greene King**. Coupe, who is responsible for trading, marketing, IT and online at Sainsbury's, takes up the role on 26 July.

● **Reckitt Benckiser** has promoted Richard Joyce to the role of investor relations director. Joyce takes up the new role on 1 September and has been director of financial reporting for the past three years.

● Margaret McKinlay has

been appointed chair of the **Gangmasters Licensing Authority**. She was formerly acting chief executive at the Immigration Advisory Service.

● Sir Tony Hawkhead and Paul Rew have been appointed non-executive directors for **Defra**. Sir Tony is CEO of Groundwork UK. Rew is a non-executive director of Northumbrian Water Group.

● Dr Tom Pickerell is leaving his post as director of the Shellfish Association of Great Britain in September, to take up a post at the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** in California. Former assistant director and MD of River Ex Shellfish, David Jarrad, will replace him.

● Max Wright and Laura Bull have been appointed buyers for **DBC Foodservice**.

Wright joins as senior buyer for alcohol, non-food and own-label. Bull will be responsible for frozen bakery, frozen desserts and ice cream.

● Anselm Iwundu is the new executive director of **Fairfood International**. Iwundu joined Fairfood four years ago and is currently the director of the research department. He replaces Frank van der Linde, who revealed he planned to step down from the role last month.

● Alastair Kerr has been appointed non-executive director for **Fuller, Smith & Turner**. Kerr is currently a non-executive director of high street clothing retailer White Stuff and has held senior management roles at Mothercare, Kwik-Fit and The Body Shop.