

Aug 26, 2016

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Johan Engman thinks breakfast is underserved in San Diego. So he is building a small morning-food-focused empire that is moving beyond that corner of the country.

Engman is founder and owner of the Rise & Shine Restaurant Group, based in San Diego, which is parent to the Breakfast Republic concept, as well as a growing number of other restaurant brands.

Breakfast Republic, however, is the concept so far that Engman believes has legs. Here's a look:

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Whimsy and humor drive the design theme at Breakfast Republic. Founder Johan Engman said he hopes guests notice new creative details in the design every time they visit.

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Engman opened the first Breakfast Republic in 2015. With two units open in San Diego, three more are planned over the next nine months. It's the most scalable of Rise & Shine Restaurant Group's concepts, he said



















Rise & Shine Restaurant Group's morning-focused concept combines an innovative menu, fun design and breakfast cocktails.

Read more: Breakfast Republic aims for scalable whimsy

Photos by Walter Wilson Photography

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The Liberty Station location of Breakfast Republic has a full bar. The original unit in San Diego's North Park neighborhood has a beer-and-wine permit, but soon will have a full bar. A full bar is planned for all units going forward.

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Breakfast Republic offers traditional breakfast fare with a twist, like this deconstructed version of steak and eggs, all day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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This whiskey cocktail uses whipped egg whites and orange peel to resemble a fried egg.

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Founder Engman is a believer in branding. The restaurants sell branded tee shirts, hats, coffee mugs and more. One restaurant sells \$3,000 to \$4,000 in apparel a month, he said.

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The restaurants have about 20 beers on draft, even though it's all about breakfast. Engman said beer flies out the door from 7 a.m. on. "That's just become part of the drinking culture in America," he said.

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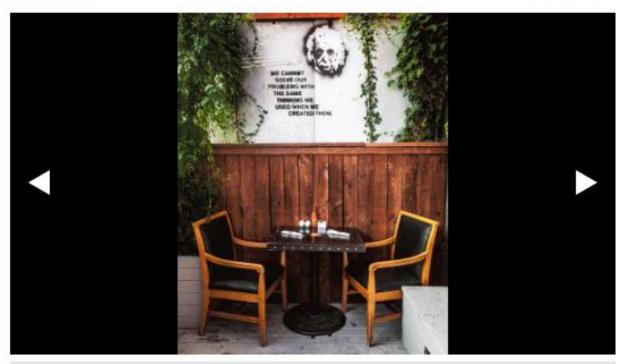
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Breakfast Republic specializes in the decadent, but there are healthful items on the menu too.

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The whimsical décor extends to the patio, which is a strong feature of Breakfast Republic. It is Southern California, after all.

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For guests who can't decide, flights of pancakes are available.

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Rise & Shine Restaurant Group has several other restaurants planned for the North Park neighborhood of San Diego, including a concept called Pizza Republic next door, and another breakfast-focused restaurant called North Park Breakfast Co.