



Darden Restaurants Invites You to Join Its Second Quarter Conference Call on the Web

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec. 15 -- In conjunction with the Darden Restaurants (NYSE: DRI) Second Quarter earnings release, you are invited to listen to a conference call that will be broadcast live over the Internet on Thursday, December 21, 2000 at 8:30 am ET with Joe R. Lee, Chairman & CEO, and other senior management.

What: Darden Restaurants Second Quarter Conference Call

When: 8:30 am ET, December 21, 2000

Where: <http://www.videonewswire.com/DARDEN/122100/>

How: Live over the Internet -- simply log on to the Web at the address above

As the largest casual dining restaurant company in the world, Darden Restaurants, Inc., owns and operates over 1,100 Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Bahama Breeze, and Smokey Bones BBQ restaurants with annual sales of

\$3.7 billion. Darden is headquartered in Orlando, Fla.

CONTACT: Investors, Matthew Stroud, 407-245-6789, or Media, Rick Walsh, 407-245-5366, both of Darden Restaurants, Inc.

If you are unable to participate during the live webcast, audio from the conference call will be archived on Darden Restaurant's website, <http://www.darden.com>. To access the replay, click on NEWSFLASH.

(Minimum Requirements to listen to broadcast: RealPlayer software, downloadable free from www.real.com/products/player/index.html, and at least a 14.4Kbps connection to the Internet. If you experience problems listening to the broadcast, send an email to webmaster@vdat.com.)