

# PRESS RELEASE

## Growing business the Sodexo way

5 June 2019

**Sodexo Prestige Venues & Events, the UK's leading catering and events company, has come up with a novel idea to grow its business.**

Sodexo partners over 50 leading sports stadia, and cultural destinations across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. And, as it looks to expand its portfolio across the UK, it is planting its services in the minds of potential clients with a unique corporate gift.

The company is handing out fully sustainable wooden pencils, tipped with a special, biodegradable capsule, filled with basil seeds. Once the pencil has been used the capsule can be planted in soil and, with regular sunshine and watering, a basil plant will grow.

As part of its current Celebrating Summer Time with Prestige Venues & Events (PV&E) initiative, Sodexo Executive Head Chef, Tom Beauchamp has added even further value to the gift by including his own basil-based recipe, so growers can create a delicious burrata, tomato and fresh basil salad with their own home-grown leaves.

Along with devising and creating menus for Sodexo's stable of prestigious venues, Tom and his team provide catering at some of the social calendar's most high-profile events, such as RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Ascot, and Henley Royal Regatta.

**Natasha Carr, Sodexo Venue and Events Marketing manager, said:** *"We wanted a corporate gift that was a bit different, related to food, fun and interactive, and the seed pencils are ideal."*

*"Not only do they reflect that fresh food is at the heart of our business, but they are genuinely useful gifts - and a little more exciting than the average corporate giveaway."*

Sodexo is inviting everyone who receives one of its seed pencils to send pictures of their growing basil plants to [Venues&Events.Prestige.UK@Sodexo.com](mailto:Venues&Events.Prestige.UK@Sodexo.com).

For full details of the Sodexo Prestige Venues & Events portfolio see #BringingPeopleTogether and [@SodexoPrestige](https://twitter.com/SodexoPrestige), call the UK Sales Hub on 0845 6055 699 or visit [prestigevenuesandevents.sodexo.com](http://prestigevenuesandevents.sodexo.com).

### Ends

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## About Sodexo

### UK and Ireland

Sodexo employs around 34,000 people, and delivers services that improve the quality of life to clients at some 1,850 locations in the corporate, energy & resources, healthcare, education, leisure, justice and defence sectors. Services range from catering, cleaning, reception to asset management, security, laboratory and grounds maintenance services, enabling clients to focus on their core business.

Sodexo Benefits and Rewards Services in the UK provides benefit and reward services such as SayShopping vouchers; public benefits; and employee benefits such as childcare vouchers and engagement surveys.

### Sodexo Group

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organisational performance. Operating in 72 countries, Sodexo serves 100 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services.

Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over more than 50 years of experience: from foodservices, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from services and programs fostering employees' engagement to solutions that simplify and optimise their mobility and expenses management, to in-home assistance, childcare centres and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 460,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is included in the CAC 40, FTSE 4 Good and DJSI indices.

#### **Key figures** (as of August 31, 2018)

**20.4 billion** euro in consolidated revenues

**460,000** employees

**19<sup>th</sup>** largest employer worldwide

**72** countries

**100 million** consumers served daily

**13.5 billion** euro in market capitalization (as of January 9, 2018)