

Senior Leadership: Founder Bios

AL ROBERTS

FOUNDER, EAT HERE Brands LLC

- Managing Partner, Executive Company Chef, LR Restaurants, dba Table 100 Restaurant and Conference Center, Babalu Tacos & Tapas, and Interim Restaurant and Bar
- Managing Partner, Five Guys Burgers and Fries Franchise, MS, dba LR Burgers LLC
- Former Chief Operating Officer, Executive Corporate Chef, Amerigo Restaurant Corporation, dba Amerigo Italian Restaurant, and Char Restaurant

Al Roberts is a Managing Partner of LR Restaurants, under which he operates a family of modern, successful restaurants: Table 100 Restaurant and Conference Center in Flowood, MS; Babalu, a taco and tapas restaurant in the historic Fondren district of Jackson, MS; and Interim Restaurant and Bar in Memphis, TN. In addition to the success he enjoys at those restaurants, he and his partner are franchisees for Five Guys Burgers and Fries in the Mississippi market, in which they plan to open 12 stores by 2017. There are currently two Five Guys' restaurants successfully operating in the Jackson metro area, with two openings planned for 2012.

Before this success, he and his partner owned and successfully operated the Amerigo family of restaurants for over 20 years. The two also created, opened, and operated Char restaurant in 2002. In 2006, Roberts and his partner successfully sold the Amerigo Restaurant Group, along with Char.

After graduation from The University of Mississippi in 1976, Al's career path has taken him through many facets of restaurant management, to food and beverage management, to sous chef, to executive chef, to owner-operator and corporate chef, to directing and overseeing the growth of a large group of individual restaurant concepts and franchise operations. Al's business acumen is largely a result of his comprehensive knowledge of the culinary world, exemplified by his tutelage under Chef Bernard Sarne of Sundancer Restaurant, which, under Al's direction, grew from popular to critically praised, and its reputation spread across the southeast region. He has trained with and worked for regional companies like the Bennigan's Tavern, Steak and Ale Restaurant Group in the late '70s, and he has transferred that success, leaving his own regional mark by founding Amerigo Restaurant Corporation in Jackson, MS, along with his partner of 30 years. As co-owner, Roberts served as COO and Corporate Chef for Amerigo. Moreover, he developed Amerigo's Italian specialty menus and Char Restaurant's menu, along with specific operations manuals, kitchen training manuals, and detailed recipe database research. These efforts have also been applied to the development of LR Restaurants and the family of concepts currently being operated by Roberts and his partner Bill Latham.