

## Fri 1st Apr 2016 - Propel Friday News Briefing

**Research shows gap in the market for 'Active Dining':** New research by guest experience management firm HospitalityGEM has revealed a gap in the market for "Active Dining". The trend follows recent openings in New York where Spin & Gin and Dates with Weights have successfully blended exercise workouts with dining. The trend is now set to take off in the UK with 95% of diners stating they would eat out more often if restaurants had exercise facilities available on site. In a recent survey of mystery diners, 64% revealed they would choose to eat and exercise simultaneously, whereas 44% stated they would prefer to use the exercise equipment between courses to burn off fat from the previous course. The most popular time of day for "Active Dining" is lunchtime (61%) and early afternoon (29%). Post-main course was identified as the prime time for exercising, with 72% stating this was when they felt most lethargic and would look to exercise. Hands-free exercise machines, such as treadmills, proved to be the most popular (74%) and the more labour intensive, such as rowing machines were least popular (13%). Popular foods whilst exercising were smaller lighter bites, with the trend for street food (47%) and premium tacos (39%) coming out on top. When asked why diners would opt for this form of eating out, one diner said: "I never visit the gym because I get too hungry, but this would solve the problem and make exercise more social." Steven Pike, managing director of HospitalityGEM, said: "I have seen some amazing trends enter the UK eating out market in recent years that have come and gone, but this is one that I predict sticking around for a long time. The average person in the UK is constantly juggling work, keeping fit, as well as fitting in a social life, meaning it is often hard to keep up – so why not blend all three activities into one. I recently spent some time in New York and it is easy to see why this concept has taken off."