



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

## River Cafe Tender Opportunity

Timespan is an internationally renowned cultural hub for learning, Scottish history and contemporary art production. Each year, we produce significant contemporary art commissions and a wide and accessible events programme including weekly Youth Action Social Squad Clubs, international symposiums, music concerts, environmental lecture series, food and growing skills workshops and film clubs. Our local history museum and public archive are centres of learning about Sutherland's history and its relation to global histories, and we welcome 17000+ visitors each year from all around the world to enjoy our programme, gallery, museum, archive, garden, shop and cafe.

We're looking for a catering provider that can embrace Timespan's values and provide a cafe offer for our River Cafe, which is at the heart of Timespan's organisation. River Cafe is in a beautiful spot in the Scottish Highlands overlooking the River Helmsdale and Timespan's herb garden, and it's central to Timespan's organisational aims - we use food as a means of supporting local producers and creating community. We believe that everyone deserves access to fresh, sustainable and ethically sourced food and our aim is to work with community partners and producers to develop a local food web for the village.

Ideally, we're looking for:

- A small to medium artisan catering or food business which offers a good quality menu that caters for a range of dietary needs
- A business with a brand ethos which supports Timespan's organisational aims
- A business who are open to working in partnership with Timespan to programme creative events and workshops around the politics of food production
- A business with experience of managing a small team with excellent teamwork and communication skills

## River Cafe and Helmsdale

The River Cafe is a well established destination for tourists and locals and has been running since 1997. Timespan has managed this inhouse until successfully franchising the cafe out to The Prague Shack for the summer season April - October 2019. Given the success of the 2019 season we are looking to continue with franchising the cafe.

Timespan is a major heritage destination in Helmsdale, a village on the increasingly popular North Coast 500 route, in the Scottish Highlands.

The kitchen is fully functional with commercial catering equipment and serviceware. The cafe can seat 35 covers with an additional outdoor seating area for up to 20 covers, overlooking the River Helmsdale. A list of kitchen equipment and floor plan can be provided on request.



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There is plenty of free parking space in Timespan's carpark and easy access to the kitchen for deliveries. The site has 24 hour access and is locked overnight.

Timespan currently employs 2 cafe assistants who run the cafe in the off season (Tuesday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday between November and March) and whose salary costs would be recharged monthly to the concession holder at cost (£x.xx per hour plus NI from April 2020) for the hours that they work during the period of the concession.

Timespan is open between 10.00 and 17.00 7 days a week from the start of April until the end of October and this was the period of the franchise during 2019. Timespan would be prepared to consider both evening and early morning opening of the cafe by the concession holder and also a concession period that extends beyond the April to October main season.

The terms of your franchise with Timespan would be contained within a contract which would be required to be signed prior to commencement of the concession.

### Expression of Interest

If you would like to visit the site for a tour and informal conversation about this opportunity, please contact Sadie Young, Director at [sadie@timespan.org.uk](mailto:sadie@timespan.org.uk) | 01431821327. We can provide the last 5 years of cafe turnover figures on request as well as cafe visitor numbers for the last 5 years.

We are inviting expressions of interest and want to know about your experience of running a cafe or catering business, your experience of managing staff, your passion for food, and how you see your business working in partnership with Timespan. Please include the following:

- How you see your business working in partnership with Timespan
- Information on your business and the type of offer you'd be providing (please include a sample menu with prices)
- A short statement explaining your relevant experience and skills and how long you have been trading
- 3 - 5 images of your current operation to demonstrate the visual identity of your brand, if applicable
- Outline of your income and expenditure forecast for the period of your concession with Timespan

**The deadline for expressions of interest is January 31st 2020**