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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

38
YEARS
OLD

JOHNNY TUNG

Johnny Tung co-founded his own chain 16 years ago after growing up in the restaurant business.

Tung, along with his big brother, Jimmy Tung, is co-owner of Orlando-based Bento Management Group. Johnny Tung has worked every job in a restaurant, from dishwashing and cooking to serving, bussing tables and working the register. But while he was in college in Gainesville, he experienced the 9/11 tragedy and became concerned about the unstable job market. So, he and his brother decided to open the first Bento Asian Kitchen + Sushi location, putting a modern and comfortable spin on authentic pan-Asian cuisine.

Fast forward to today, and Bento Management Group boasts a team of about 600 workers and reported \$25.67 million in 2017 revenue, putting it among Central Florida's largest privately held firms. The Bento concept has 10 Sunshine State locations, including three in Orlando. Bento Management Group also operates Sticky Rice Lao Street Food, Chela Tequila & Tacos (formerly Kasa Restaurant & Bar), Avenue Gastrobar and Sushi Chao.

And the Tung brothers — along with their Bento partner David Yu — also are investors in Domu in Audubon Park and Domu Chibi Ramen at Waterford Lakes Town Center, in partnership with one of the former Bento chefs, Sean Nguyen. The plan is to create a new parent company, Domu Dynasty, to expand the concept. A separate Japanese izakaya pub/yakitori concept dubbed Tori Tori also is being envisioned for Mills Avenue under this new parent.

Johnny Tung serves in a CEO-like role and is actively involved in daily operations of all Bento restaurants, with plans to open six more restaurants within the next year. The goal after that is to start opening 10 new corporate-owned restaurants each year, including plans to expand to Atlanta and the rest of the Southeast. To prepare for that, Johnny Tung spends most of his time scouting potential new locations, and meeting and corresponding with top managers in various divisions, including culinary, operations and HR.

My fun work title: Eagle Eyes

What keeps me in Orlando: A growing food scene that is diverse and underrated, Disney and all the great theme parks, and building our Bento Group headquarters in the Mills 50 District.

My hidden talent: I ran cross country in high school and hope to run the New York marathon one day.

