



John Caron
President

John Caron was named President of Olive Garden in June 2011. John, who is also a member of Darden Restaurants' Operating Team, leads a company with more than 750 restaurants, 88,000 employees and \$3.5 billion in annual sales.



John previously served as the first Chief Marketing Officer for Darden Restaurants, helping to establish an enterprise Marketing function for the company. In this role, John led the development of an integrated brand strategy across Darden, standardizing best practices and ensuring the company's restaurant brands are appropriately positioned with clearly identified plans to drive sustainable growth.

John joined Darden in 2003 and served as Executive Vice President of Marketing for Olive Garden for seven years. During John's tenure leading brand management, he oversaw the successful launch of a national Hispanic advertising campaign, the first for a casual dining brand; provided strategic leadership around the development of a digital media strategy; and delivered relevant new promotions and new advertising campaigns, all leading to results that far outpaced the casual dining industry.

Before joining Darden, John worked as Vice President and General Manager of Beverages for Unilever Bestfoods North America. His 17-year tenure with Unilever also included leadership roles for a variety of food businesses including Vice President and General Manager of the \$400 million Lipton Beverage brand as well as oversight of the Ragu and Five Brothers sauces group. Additionally, John's experience at Unilever included international assignments in Canada and Germany leading the company's portfolio of margarine brands.

John serves as an executive sponsor of the Darden Family Network. John received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from The Colorado College and a master's degree in American Politics from New York University School of Politics. He earned an MBA in Marketing from New York University School of Business.

Darden is the world's largest full-service restaurant operating company with annual sales of \$7.5 billion. The company owns and operates 1,900 Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, The Capital Grille, Bahama Breeze and Seasons 52 restaurants in North America, employs approximately 180,000 people and serves more than 400 million meals annually. In 2011, Darden became the first full-service restaurant company ever to be named to the FORTUNE "100 Best Companies to Work For" list.