

Klaus Fritsch
Co-Founder & Vice Chairman
Morton's, The Steakhouse

Restaurants and meticulous food preparation are a way of life for Klaus Fritsch, who learned from the kitchen up at his family's establishment in Germany. After four years of study and an apprenticeship at the prestigious Restaurant Kaiser Keller in Frankfurt, Germany, Fritsch worked in several Swiss resorts and restaurants before moving to the United States in 1967.

Klaus Fritsch and Arnie Morton co-founded Morton's in 1978 and soon began expanding the business from the original State Street location in Chicago.

Fritsch and Morton had previously opened several successful Chicago restaurants, including Arnie's, a landmark on Chicago's Gold Coast, Zorine's, a private disco/night club, and LaMer, a premier seafood restaurant.

They traveled the world together in the early 1970's, opening Playboy Clubs for Playboy Clubs International. Fritsch joined Playboy as food and beverage director in 1971.

Prior to joining Playboy, Fritsch was assistant food and beverage director at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans and a chef at the Sonesta Beach Hotel in Bermuda.

Today, as vice chairman of Morton's The Steakhouse restaurants, Fritsch is responsible for the business growth and menu development of the Morton's locations around the world. Morton's Restaurant Group acquired the eight Morton's restaurants in 1989. Fritsch served as president of Morton's The Steakhouse from 1985 to 1992.

In addition to his budgeting and financial planning responsibilities, Fritsch also selects new locations for Morton's restaurants and oversees training and quality control.

The opening of the 77th Morton's The Steakhouse in Shanghai continues the planned growth of the company. Morton's trademark consistency has been replicated in locations from San Francisco to Singapore and Houston to Hong Kong, making it the largest company-owned and operated fine-dining restaurant brand in the world.

Fritsch is the author of *Morton's Steak Bible*, which was published in June 2006 by the Clarkson Potter division of Random House, and most recently, has authored his second book, *Morton's The Cookbook: 100 Steakhouse Recipes for Every Kitchen*.

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