Anatomy of a Successful

Limited-time offers (LTOs) are great for creating buzz, promoting an exclusive offer and getting customers to try something new. Planning a successful LTO takes a bit of strategy—here are some tips.

Is it Instagram-able?

Appealing to younger consumers is key with LTOs; they're more likely than other generations to

post pictures of food
on platforms like
Instagram and
Facebook

"I take pictures of food and post them on social media:"

Gen X

15%

Millennials

24%

Gen Z

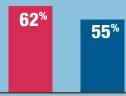
12%

TAKEAWAY:

Look at restaurant trends like freak shakes, unicorn drinks and other unique treats for optimal shareability

Consider buzzworthiness

Why do you order new foods and flavors?



Looking for something different

To discover new flavors

TAKEAWAY:

Get creative, research flavor trends and think outside the box when creating a new dish

Keep timing tight to build hype



"LTO menu items are likely to influence my decision to visit a foodservice location"

TAKEAWAY:

Clearly indicate when the dish or special will be available and when the offer ends, so that interested consumers can take advantage

Menu ideas

Global-inspired sauces (XO sauce, harissa, zhug) **for grain bowls**

Trending produce for sides (winter squash, pomegranate, brussels sprouts)



New preparations (smoked, blackened, fried) **for proteins**

Sweet 'n savory desserts (salted caramel, Mexican chocolate)



Offer dessert LTOs for maximum sales value



TAKEAWAY:

Consumers have a higher price threshold for desserts than other menu items. It can be beneficial for operators to offer these as LTOs to help increase check averages



