

# Innovation on a plate - 1 Oct 2018

BY LAUREN HARTZENBERG, RETAIL EDITOR (@BIZ\_RETAIL)

The inaugural **FoodNext.Africa** conference kicked off last week, a B2B food event where startups, food innovators, foodtech businesses and investors who are redefining the food industry from farm-to-fork are able to connect and share ideas. In the first of a number of articles from the conference, we report on **Gauteng startup MyBraai**, which has taken a popular South African past-time and turned it into a thriving online business.

In the same vein, Ruth Cooper chats to **Hannerie Visser about Food XX**, a new food conference set for 2019 that aims to support womxn in the food, drinks and hospitality industries.

In other top news, **French hardware retailer Leroy Merlin** opened the doors to its first store on the African continent in Edenvale, Gauteng on Friday. With a modern store environment and value-adding services, will it give local home improvement retailers a run for their money?

In fashion, **Michael Kors is acquiring Italian luxury house Versace** for \$2.1 billion. While the deal hints at the making of a US luxury conglomerate, many fans of the Italian brand are calling it 'the end of Versace'.

**GfK South Africa's latest report** shows that South Africa's connected consumers still gravitate towards brick-and-mortar shops for their purchases, with more shoppers practicing "webrooming" than "showrooming".

And **contributor Daniella Shapiro shares advice** on how to stay afloat when fake online reviews could sink your business.

Finally, September means that we're gearing up for **#BizTrends2019**. For editorial contributions mail us on [retailnews@bizcommunity.com](mailto:retailnews@bizcommunity.com); Subject: #BizTrends2019; Final deadline: 16 November! For sponsorship opportunities contact [sales@bizcommunity.com](mailto:sales@bizcommunity.com).

Until next week, enjoy!

**Lauren Hartzenberg**  
Retail Editor: [Bizcommunity.com](https://www.bizcommunity.com)

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