# Romesh Ranganathan energises Coughlans Bakery with vegan treats and community focus



# Romesh Ranganathan: From Comedian to Co-Owner of a Bakery Phenomenon

A familiar face has been spotted delighting customers behind the counter at a quaint bakery in Oxted, Surrey. Romesh Ranganathan, the well-known stand-up comedian and television presenter, surprised fans when he took to serving pastries and coffees at Coughlans Bakery. Patrons were left in awe as the funnyman mingled, posed for selfies, and dedicated time to chat, creating a buzz that drew in crowds keen to both savour baked goods and catch a glimpse of the comic sensation.

Since becoming a co-owner of Coughlans Bakery in 2024, Ranganathan's involvement has garnered significant attention. This 87-year-old family-run business, now boasting 31 locations across South London, Surrey, Kent, and West Sussex, welcomed Ranganathan as its first non-family board member, an announcement that brought both excitement and curiosity. His partnership not only marks a personal milestone for Ranganathan, who described it as “the partnership of the century”, but signifies a transformative era for the bakery, which aims to expand further under his influence.

A key part of Ranganathan's personal engagement with the bakery lies in his dedication to vegan products. The collaboration birthed the Ranga Yum Yum, a chocolate and Biscoff-flavoured vegan treat, which has become a staple on the menu. The appeal of this pastry is twofold: it not only showcases a delicious vegan option but also supports mental health, as a portion of the proceeds are donated to the charity CALM, highlighting Ranganathan's commitment to raising awareness about suicide prevention.

Sean Coughlan, the bakery’s owner, has consistently praised Ranganathan’s humility and genuine enthusiasm for the business. The comedian has expressed his desire to connect with the community through a hands-on approach, revealing a softer side to his celebrity persona. "It was nice to meet people. I just wanted to get involved. The crowds are better than my tour show," he remarked in an interview, further endearing him to bakery goers.

Coughlans Bakery has experienced notable growth since Ranganathan’s involvement, having expanded from 18 to 31 locations in just four years. As the bakery eyes potential franchising opportunities, it aims to compete more robustly within the UK’s bakery market, increasingly seen as a worthy alternative to larger chains like Greggs. Reviews from fans suggest that Coughlans is not just a bakery but a destination for quality baked goods, with some asserting that its offerings taste significantly better than those from its competitors.

As Romesh Ranganathan continues to balance his successful career in comedy with his burgeoning business interests, his recent foray into the bakery world is not merely a publicity stunt; it represents a deep-rooted passion for food and community connection. His dual role as a celebrity and co-owner draws new patrons in, enhancing the bakery's appeal, while simultaneously giving fans a glimpse into a more relatable and accessible side of fame.

In the end, Ranganathan's commitment to his new venture goes beyond the business; it is a heartfelt engagement with the community and a testament to his values. This new chapter in his career is not just about humour; it's about hope, connection, and a shared love for delicious, quality pastries.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14691781/Top-comedian-working-Surrey-bakery-YOU-recognised-him.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm27kd519yjo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14691781/Top-comedian-working-Surrey-bakery-YOU-recognised-him.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://bakeryinfo.co.uk/finance/romesh-ranganathan-becomes-part-owner-of-coughlans-bakery/698456.article), [[5]](https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Romesh+Ranganathan+loves+family+run+Croydon+bakery+so+much+he%27s+going...-a0819057559)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://bakeryinfo.co.uk/finance/romesh-ranganathan-becomes-part-owner-of-coughlans-bakery/698456.article), [[4]](https://barwellbusinesspark.co.uk/coughlans-and-celebrity-romesh-ranganathan-join-forces-in-aid-of-mental-health-charity/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm27kd519yjo), [[6]](https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Growing+UK+bakery+chain+fans+say+is+%27better+than+Greggs%27+with+31...-a0828842779)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14691781/Top-comedian-working-Surrey-bakery-YOU-recognised-him.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/coughlans-bakery-expands-to-31-locations-and-gains-popularity-among-fans-d76d5cc7)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14691781/Top-comedian-working-Surrey-bakery-YOU-recognised-him.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Romesh+Ranganathan+loves+family+run+Croydon+bakery+so+much+he%27s+going...-a0819057559)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14691781/Top-comedian-working-Surrey-bakery-YOU-recognised-him.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://bakeryinfo.co.uk/finance/romesh-ranganathan-becomes-part-owner-of-coughlans-bakery/698456.article> - Stand-up comedian, actor, and TV presenter Romesh Ranganathan has purchased a stake in Coughlans Bakery, securing part ownership of the 87-year-old business operating 31 shops across South London, Surrey, Kent, and West Sussex. Ranganathan announced his involvement in a video on Instagram, expressing his excitement about the partnership. Coughlans Bakery's director, Sean Coughlan, welcomed Ranganathan into the family business, marking the first time in 87 years that a non-family member has joined the board. The collaboration aims to continue expanding the bakery's retail estate.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm27kd519yjo> - Comedian and presenter Romesh Ranganathan is set to work behind the counter at Coughlans Bakery branches in Dorking, Surrey, and Crawley, West Sussex. As a vegan, Ranganathan collaborated with the bakery to create the Ranga Yum Yum, a vegan treat. He became a co-owner of the bakery chain in 2024 and expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, calling it 'the partnership of the century.' Co-owner Sean Coughlan praised Ranganathan's involvement and down-to-earth nature, highlighting his genuine interest in the business.
4. <https://barwellbusinesspark.co.uk/coughlans-and-celebrity-romesh-ranganathan-join-forces-in-aid-of-mental-health-charity/> - Coughlans Bakery has partnered with comedian Romesh Ranganathan to create the Ranga Yum Yum, a chocolate and Biscoff-flavored vegan treat, in support of the suicide prevention charity CALM. A portion of each sale is donated to CALM, with Ranganathan serving as a patron. Reflecting on his personal experiences, Ranganathan emphasized the importance of seeking help during difficult times. The collaboration aims to raise funds and awareness for mental health support through the sale of this new product.
5. <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Romesh+Ranganathan+loves+family+run+Croydon+bakery+so+much+he%27s+going...-a0819057559> - Comedian Romesh Ranganathan has become a joint owner of Coughlans Bakery, an 87-year-old family-run business, and plans to work in its branches. His involvement began when he ordered vegan goods from the bakery and encouraged expansion into his hometown of Crawley. The partnership includes the creation of the Ranga Yum Yum, a vegan pastry, with proceeds supporting the suicide prevention charity CALM. Coughlans Bakery has expanded from 18 to 31 shops in four years, with plans for further growth and potential franchising.
6. <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Growing+UK+bakery+chain+fans+say+is+%27better+than+Greggs%27+with+31...-a0828842779> - Coughlans Bakery, a family-run business founded in 1937, has expanded to 31 locations across London, Kent, Surrey, and East Sussex. The bakery has gained popularity, with some customers claiming it is better than Greggs. In 2024, comedian Romesh Ranganathan invested in the company, acquiring a stake and bringing media attention to the brand. The bakery offers a variety of pastries, including vegan options, and is considering franchising to support further growth.
7. <https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/coughlans-bakery-expands-to-31-locations-and-gains-popularity-among-fans-d76d5cc7> - Coughlans Bakery, a competitor to Greggs, has expanded to 31 locations across England, gaining popularity among customers. The bakery has doubled its production space and is considering franchising after receiving investment from TV presenter Romesh Ranganathan. Fans on social media claim Coughlans' products are significantly better than those of Greggs. A taste test by a journalist rated Coughlans' vegan bake higher than Greggs' offering, highlighting differences in quality and flavor. While Coughlans has grown rapidly, it does not yet operate 24-hour shifts like Greggs.