



# A Scandinavian restaurant on rail

There's a new unique type of train in operation in northern and eastern Finland – a double-deck restaurant car that can't be found anywhere else in the world. In an investment worth more than €68 million, the VR Group has ordered 26 of these new 'DuettoPlus' modern double-deck cars from Finnish supplier Transtech. [Antti Tiitola](#), Senior Vice President for Passenger Services at VR Group explains that there is a restaurant located in the lower-floor car which includes a variety of seating areas for up to 53 passengers, and there is a passenger compartment upstairs seating 41 customers.

The DuettoPlus car type was launched in January 2014 and sparked immediate interest as restaurant cars are an integral part of every Finnish train journey. The distances are long in Finland and a visit to the

restaurant car for many passengers is a central part of every train journey. Catering services provide a competitive advantage for train journeys as opposed to other forms of transport.

**Scandinavian design**

On the top deck, the interior design of the passenger seating area is typically Scandinavian and is bright and modern. On the lower floor in the restaurant there are a variety of seating arrangements to cater for various sized groups of passengers. The ground floor is also equipped with a stage for in-house performances.

**New flavours for a travellers' delight**

The restaurant offers a selection of both traditional and favourite meals, snacks and coffees but also offers some new ideas like sushi. The menu and changing offers are displayed on digital screens for passengers to view easily. The whole of the DuettoPlus restaurant carriage is fully licensed.



The lower deck restaurant car has seating for 53 passengers



The passenger compartment upstairs has seating for 41 passengers

The food is prepared in new, high-speed ovens which can efficiently produce up to four servings at a time. The car also has twice as much cold storage space that normal and the loading of goods can be carried out more easily.

**Kiosk available at peak times**

There is a kiosk located on the intermediate floor by the stairs which are used to access the upper deck. Passengers can purchase products at peak times from the kiosk.

At the far end of the upper deck there is a conference 'compartment' that holds space for 12 people which can be booked in advance. Additionally, the entire upper deck can also be booked for business meetings or recreational purposes.

**Further passenger services**

There are a number of other services offered to passengers throughout the new cars including air-conditioning, information display screens, wireless LAN,

and PC plug-sockets at seats in the upper-deck.

**The new trains will replace old rolling stock**

Thirty-seven old restaurant cars are currently in operation consisting of four different models. The oldest ones were built in the 1970s and will be replaced by the new rolling stock as and when they are completed from the Transtech factory in Kajaani.

| DuettoPlus: technical data       |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Length:                          | 26.4m   |
| Width:                           | 3.2m    |
| Height (from top of rail):       | 5.2m    |
| Floor Height (from top of rail): | 55cm    |
| Weight:                          | 56t     |
| Maximum Speed:                   | 200km/h |
| Bogie:                           | TB201   |
| Overhead Clearance (upper deck): | 2.1m    |
| Overhead Clearance (lower deck): | 2.1m    |



**Antti Tiitola** is Senior Vice President for Passenger Services in the VR Group. He has worked for the company since 2012 but previously worked as the Managing Director for Lidl in Finland and at Örum Oy as Marketing Director. In 2013, the turnover for VR's Passenger Services was €2,683 million and 69.3 million train journeys were recorded in the same year.