



## **The Gluten Intolerance Group Awards The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc. With GFFS Certification**

### ***Popular Polished Casual Dining Franchise Demonstrates its Commitment to Gluten-Free Diners***

**AUBURN, Wash.** (May 2, 2017)—The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG), the leader in the certification of gluten-free products and food services, announced today that The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc., (The Melting Pot) has met the certification requirements for GIG's Gluten-Free Food Service Certification (GFFS), a program designed to support food service establishments of all types (restaurants, cafeterias, hospitals) in providing safe options for gluten-free consumers.

The Melting Pot, the world's premier fondue restaurant franchise with more than 120 locations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Middle East, offers its customers a unique dining experience featuring cheese fondues, salads, fine wines and chocolate fondue desserts.

“The Melting Pot values the support and guidance it has received from GIG since the inception of our partnership in 2009. Attaining the GFFS certification is one more step in strengthening our valuable relationship with GIG as well as our commitment to ensuring an exceptional dining experience for all of our customers,” said Mike Lester, president of The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc. “With May being Celiac Awareness Month, we are particularly proud to know that our restaurants will be displaying the GFFS logo so that gluten-free diners won't have to miss out on the wonderful, interactive experience we offer that they can share with their friends and family members.”

“The Melting Pot has demonstrated its strong commitment to the gluten-free community by meeting the highest standards and being proactive in providing safe food choices for its gluten-free diners,” said Lindsey Yeakle, GFFS Quality Control Manager, GIG. “In doing so, The Melting Pot joins a growing number of food service establishments that recognize the value of raising consumer confidence in their knowledge and safe handling of their food.”

The [Gluten-Free Food Service](http://www.gluten.org) (GFFS) Certification Program is a proven model of established best practices for food service facilities offering gluten-free options. GIG is committed to ongoing food safety research to assure customers and consumers the highest level of excellence in its gluten-free programs and services. For information, visit [www.gluten.org](http://www.gluten.org).

### **About the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG)**

The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association funded by private donations, fundraising, sponsorship opportunities and industry programs. It relies on tax-deductible contributions to support its many innovative industry, service, social and awareness programs. GIG has been a highly respected leader in the Gluten-Free community since it was founded in 1974. In addition to more than 70

local branches across the United States, GIG has increased its presence internationally to over 29 countries. GIG empowers the gluten-free community through consumer support, advocacy and education.

### **About The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc.**

Founded in 1975, The Melting Pot has offered a unique fondue dining experience for more than 40 years. As the premier fondue restaurant franchise, The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc. has more than 120 restaurants in 35 U.S. states, Canada, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. A leading polished casual dining franchise, The Melting Pot was recognized as the No. 2 casual dining restaurant in the [Nation's Restaurant News 2016 Consumer Picks report](#). Known for offering a choice of fondue cooking styles and a variety of unique entrées, The Melting Pot's menu also features cheese fondues, salads, fine wines and chocolate fondue desserts. Fondue fans can join The Melting Pot's [Club Fondue](#) for exclusive promotions, special events and advance holiday reservation privileges. The Melting Pot is an affiliate of Front Burner, a restaurant management company headquartered in Tampa, Florida. For more information, visit [www.meltingpot.com](http://www.meltingpot.com). To learn more about franchise opportunities with The Melting Pot, please visit [www.meltingpotfranchise.com](http://www.meltingpotfranchise.com).

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