

Fondue restaurant, Outback sign leases for Lahaina Gateway

LAHAINA — The Melting Pot, a fondue restaurant, will open its first location in Hawaii at the Lahaina Gateway Center, a new retail development.

In addition, Outback Steakhouse announced it will open its third restaurant on Maui at Lahaina Gateway, which is currently under construction on 11 acres fronting Honoapiilani Highway at Keawe Street.

Outback and Cohn Restaurant Group (for The Melting Pot) signed lease agreements with Bilarjo LLC, owner of Lahaina Gateway. CB Richard Ellis is the leasing agent.

The Melting Pot is scheduled to open in March 2008, and Outback in early 2008.

"The Lahaina Gateway will be the first Melting Pot location outside the continental United States," said David Cohn of the Cohn Restaurant Group.

"We're proud to bring a new and exciting, interactive dining experience to Maui."

The Melting Pot's design and construction plans call for a spacious bar, artwork, private rooms and booth seating for about 230 guests. There will also be an area of exclusive two-seater booths called "Lovers' Lane."

Guests discover all the ingredients for a unique dining experience. Cooking choices include four fondue styles and a variety of entrees combined with special dipping

sauces.

There are chocolate fondues for dessert with dipping items such as fresh fruits, cheesecake, marshmallows, pound cake and more.

The Melting Pot Restaurants Inc. has more than 119 restaurants nationwide and more than 30 locations currently in development.

The new Outback location will be operated by Managing Partner Arturo Ortiz, proprietor of Kahana Outback Steakhouse.

"This restaurant marks the eighth Outback Steakhouse in Hawaii," said Ortiz. "We are excited to continue to bring our great tasting food and attentive service to West Maui in this newest location."

Outback Steakhouse features a menu of steaks, prime rib, chops, ribs, chicken, pasta, fresh salads, sides, appetizers and seafood. All dishes are made from scratch every day.

Outback Steakhouse was honored with the 2006 Platinum Award in the best steakhouse category in Restaurants & Institutions magazine's annual Consumer Choice awards.

"This (Outback's) addition enhances the variety of choices that will be available at Lahaina Gateway as we prepare to open our first stores late this year," said Scott Crockford, CB Richard Ellis vice president.

Lahaina Gateway features 140,000 square feet of retail space. The first stores are scheduled to open in December 2007, and others in the first quarter of 2008.

Lahaina Gateway will be anchored by a

large Barnes & Noble bookstore. 'Ohana Farms, Maui Dive Superstore, Sunglass Designs, Baskin-Robbins, Hat Shack and Quiet Storm have also announced plans to open in Lahaina Gateway. ■