

## FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT



Franchisor franchises the right to operate a café offering and selling sandwiches, salads, pastries, cakes, pies, cookies, hand crafted gelato, coffee products and related food and beverage items to the public for dine-in, takeout, delivery and catering under the "Mara's®" name and mark ("Mara's® Cafés" or "Cafés").

The total estimated initial investment necessary to begin operation of a Mara's<sup>®</sup> Café ranges from \$350,750 to \$462,500. This includes the \$25,000 to \$30,000 which must be paid to the franchisor or its affiliates.

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your Franchise Agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar-days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. Note, however, that no governmental agency has verified the information contained in this document.

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact our corporate office at 9 Broadway, Suite 20, Denville, New Jersey 07834, or via telephone at (973) 453-6222.

The terms of your Franchise Agreement will govern your franchise relationship. Don't rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contracts. Read all of your contracts carefully. Show your contracts and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or an accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as "A Consumer's Guide to Buying a Franchise," which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at www.ftc.gov for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising.

There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

The Issue Date of this Franchise Disclosure Document ("FDD") is: April 29, 2014.



## **STATE COVER PAGE**

Your state may have a franchise law that requires a franchisor to register or file with a state franchise administrator before offering or selling in your state. REGISTRATION OF A FRANCHISE BY A STATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STATE RECOMMENDS THE FRANCHISE OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.

Call the state franchise administrator listed in Exhibit A to this Franchise Disclosure Document for information about the franchisor, about other franchisors, or about franchising in your state.

MANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO RENEW UNCONDITIONALLY AFTER THE INITIAL TERM EXPIRES. YOU MAY HAVE TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE YOUR BUSINESS. BEFORE YOU BUY, CONSIDER WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR FRANCHISE, IF ANY, AND WHAT TERMS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ACCEPT IN ORDER TO RENEW.

Please consider the following RISK FACTORS before you buy this franchise:

1. AT OUR OPTION, THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES YOU TO RESOLVE ALL DISPUTES WITH US BY MEDIATION ONLY IN DENVILLE, NEW JERSEY. OUT OF STATE MEDIATION MAY FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT A LESS FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR DISPUTES. IT MAY ALSO COST YOU MORE TO MEDIATE WITH US IN DENVILLE, NEW JERSEY THAN IN YOUR OWN STATE.

2. ANY DISPUTES WITH US NOT SUBJECT TO MEDIATION MUST BE RESOLVED BY LITIGATION ONLY IN NEW JERSEY. IT MAY COST YOU MORE TO LITIGATE WITH US IN NEW JERSEY THAN IN YOUR OWN STATE.

3. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT STATES THAT IT IS GOVERNED BY NEW JERSEY LAW. THIS LAW MAY NOT PROVIDE THE SAME PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS AS LOCAL LAW. YOU MAY WANT TO COMPARE THESE LAWS.

4. AS PER THE AUDITED BALANCE SHEET DATED DECEMBER 31, 2013, THE FRANCHISOR HAD A NET WORTH DEFICIENCY OF \$35,803.

5. THERE MAY BE OTHER RISKS CONCERNING THIS FRANCHISE.

We use the services of one or more FRANCHISE BROKERS or referral sources to assist us in selling our franchise. A franchise broker or referral source is <u>our</u> agent and represents us, not you. We pay this person a fee for selling our franchise or referring you to us. You should be sure to do your own investigation of the franchise.

## Effective dates for this Franchise Disclosure Document in the registrations states are listed on the following page.



## MARA'S <sup>®</sup> SYSTEMS LLC STATE EFFECTIVE DATES – 2014

The following states require that the Franchise Disclosure Document be registered or filed with the state, or be exempt from registration: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

This Franchise Disclosure Document is registered, on file, or exempt from registration in the following states having franchise registration and disclosure laws, with the following effective dates:

CALIFORNIA	NOT REGISTERED
FLORIDA	NOT REGISTERED
HAWAII	NOT REGISTERED
ILLINOIS	NOT REGISTERED
INDIANA	NOT REGISTERED
KENTUCKY	NOT REGISTERED
MARYLAND	NOT REGISTERED
MICHIGAN	NOT REGISTERED
MINNESOTA	NOT REGISTERED
NEBRASKA	NOT REGISTERED
NEW YORK	AUGUST 14, 2014
NORTH DAKOTA	NOT REGISTERED
RHODE ISLAND	NOT REGISTERED
SOUTH DAKOTA	NOT REGISTERED
UTAH	NOT REGISTERED
VIRGINIA	NOT REGISTERED
WASHINGTON	NOT REGISTERED
WISCONSIN	NOT REGISTERED

In all other states, the effective date of this document is the issuance date of : April 29, 2014.

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