

# The Melting Pot ensures a 'fondue' time

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Staff Reporter

## RIVERCITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Melting Pot, which opened March 5 downtown across from River Park Square, is Spokane's premiere fondue restaurant and an excellent choice if you're into "active-eating."

Fondue originated in Switzerland and is a process of skewering small morsels of food and dipping them into sauce. This type of eating is anything but passive.

Levi Kay, the assistant manager of Spokane's location calls the Melting Pot experience, "Dinner and a movie." Their "Big Night Out" selections include a four course meal and it's the most economical decision if you want to try out everything on the menu.

The first course is a traditional cheese fondue. All cheese sauces are made right in front of you. You can rest assured that there is no Velveeta hiding within the mix.

There are many different types of cheese fondue to choose from. The spinach artichoke cheese fondue was delicious; I highly recommend it.

Other selections include a fiesta fondue which contains jalapeños and is served with tortilla chips. The Wisconsin trio has fontina, butterkase and bleu cheese mixed together with white wine, scallions and sherry.

All cheese fondues are served with bite sized pieces of French, rosemary and rye bread. The price of cheese fondue only is \$8 per person.

Next on the list is salad. The tropical salad was amazing. There were fresh greens, tomatoes, mango, coconut encrusted cashews and hearts of palm mixed together in a light, tangy dressing.

Another choice was the spinach mushroom salad which had spinach, portobello mushrooms, red onion, chopped bacon and tomatoes drizzled with a warm burgundy shallot vinaigrette.

Salads, if you are not buying the "Big Night Out," are \$7 per person.

The main course is your meat entrée. There are three entrée choices included in the "Big Night Out," Fondue Feast, Fondue Fusion and Lobster Indulgence.

The Fondue Feast includes fillet mignon, jerk-seasoned sirloin, vanilla rum chicken, marinated pork tenderloin, zesty peppered shrimp, butternut squash ravioli and fresh vegetables.

Fondue Fusion adds a lobster tail to the variety of meats, and Lobster Indulgence

adds two lobster tails. Individual and double entrées (not included in the "Big Night Out") added selections like duck breast, potstickers, andouille sausage, and Gorgonzola ravioli. These ranged from \$20 to \$66.

I was very surprised when our plate of meat arrived raw. We were told to choose a cooking style for the meat varying from hot oil to different broths. Our meat was then boiled in Coq au Vin which had herbs, mushrooms, garlic, spices and burgundy wine.

Next came the chocolate fondue. Again, there are many types of chocolate to choose from.

The Yin and Yang chocolate is half dark-half milk and is artfully swirled into, believe it or not, a Yin Yang. There is also white chocolate and peanut butter-milk chocolate. Your array of tidbits to dip includes Oreos and graham cracker covered marshmallows, cheese cake, brownies, strawberries, bananas and pound cake.

Small portions of chocolate fondue are \$12; larger portions are \$28.

Don't go to the Melting Pot if you want to eat in a rush. This meal is all about taking your time and enjoying the company of those with you.

"We went with four of our best friends and we ate and talked for three and a half hours!" said senior Sarah Crowley of Lewis and Clark High School.

It is truly a social event and not merely a source of hunger suppression.

The Melting Pot is great for dates and has a hallway called "Lover's Lane." These cave-like booths are quieter and very private. There are even quotes on the walls like, "I have found the one whom my soul loves," (Song of Solomon 3:4). At the end of your meal you can even have a free picture of you and your date to take home.

William Miller, the owner of Spokane's Melting Pot says, "Teens love our restaurant because we can accommodate both dates and large groups of friends." Miller chose his location because it is right in the heart of downtown Spokane.

"I've been to the Melting Pot five times already," said Megan Jydstrup, a freshman at Central Valley High School. "My friends and I usually come here on Friday nights."

The Melting Pot is an active, fun way to eat that will leave you with many fond memories. So do as their motto says and *Dip into something different!*

The Melting Pot is located in the second floor of the Crescent Building and reservations are strongly recommended.



Rachel Cox / Staff Photographer

The Yin & Yang fondue dipping chocolate is half dark chocolate and half milk chocolate artfully swirled for a balanced flavor. It can be enjoyed at The Melting Pot in the Crescent Building across from River Park Square.



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