

October 20, 2016

The Results Are in! Mac and Cheese Wins Over Voters in a Landslide Victory

A new survey from Noodles & Company finds that four in five Americans find more comfort in their favorite comfort food than in any presidential candidate

BROOMFIELD, Colo., Oct. 20, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- In times of unsettled uncertainty, nothing brings greater comfort than our great nation's favorite comfort foods. In a new nationwide survey* from Noodles & Company, Americans overwhelmingly agreed (85 percent) — regardless of political party affiliation — that curling up with a bowl of their favorite comfort food, macaroni and cheese, brings them a greater sense of security this election season than Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump becoming the next President of the United States. Hearing the voice of the people, Noodles & Company today announced the limited time return of three of its most popular mac and cheese dishes from its globally inspired World Kitchen, Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese, Bacon Mac & Cheeseburger and BBQ Pork Mac & Cheese.

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/51d4d715-173f-4ebd-98b4-ccf87c723646

In addition to mac and cheese winning bipartisan approval, the survey also found that nearly half of Americans (45 percent) say they'll "dine with her" and would rather share a bowl of mac and cheese with Hillary Clinton than any other presidential candidate this year. And, while traditional mac and cheese reigns supreme, 22 million Americans favor a spicier variety, such as with hot sauce, with 17 million claiming that a more savory addition, such as beef, wins their vote.

The returning favorites feature a grown up twist on the Company's signature Wisconsin Mac & Cheese. Noodles & Company invites all Americans to hop off the fence and into a chair at their nearest restaurant and try:

- Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese: This spicy take on Noodles & Company's signature dish starts with Wisconsin Mac & Cheese, then adds parmesan chicken, Frank's RedHot® Buffalo Wings Sauce, parmesan cheese and green onions.
- Bacon Mac & Cheeseburger: A savory spin on the classic, this standout dish includes crumbled, oven-roasted meatballs; crispy, naturally-raised bacon; Roma tomatoes and green onions.
- BBQ Pork Mac & Cheese: Creamy, traditional mac gets a smoky-sweet takeover complements of tender, slow-braised, naturally-raised pork; crispy jalapeños and a sweet, tangy barbecue sauce.

"The people have spoken — all 216 million Americans who consider mac and cheese their most beloved comfort food — and we hear them, loud and clear," said Jonathan Tress, vice president of marketing for Noodles & Company. "That's why Noodles & Company is giving our guests from sea to shining sea exactly what they want this fall with the return of their all-time favorite mac and cheese dishes of election cycles past. There's been a lot of talk about this being the year of the 'change' candidate, but when it comes to mac and cheese, there's no changing a winning recipe; our three returning dishes are all grown up and sure to provide delicious comfort to all."

Noodles & Company is looking to further unite this great country over its love for the ultimate comfort food by inviting voters of all ages to cast their ballot for America's favorite mac and cheese at www.noodles.com/adultmac. Those who vote in the second most hotly contested showdown of the year will be rewarded with a buy-one-get-one-free coupon good for any of the globally-inspired offerings at Noodles & Company on their next visit between now and Wednesday, Nov. 16.

For more information on Noodles & Company or to find a location nearest you to dine in, order online for carryout or group catering, please visit www.noodles.com or <a href="https://ww

*The independent third-party nationwide online survey, sponsored by Noodles & Company, was conducted by Kelton Global between Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, 2016, among 1,011 nationally representative Americans ages 18 and over with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent.

Frank's RedHot® is a registered Trademark of the French's Food Company, LLC.

About Noodles & Company

Noodles & Company is a fast-casual restaurant chain where globally inspired dishes come together to create a World Kitchen. Recognized by *Parents Magazine* as a Top Family Friendly Restaurant, and *Health Magazine* as one of America's Healthiest Fast Food Restaurants, Noodles & Company is a restaurant where Japanese Pan Noodles rest comfortably next to Penne Rosa and Wisconsin Mac & Cheese, but where world flavors don't end at just noodles. Inspired by some of the world's most celebrated flavor combinations, Noodle & Company's menu offers soups, salads and shareables, too. Everything is made fresh to order, just as you like it, using quality ingredients. Dishes are delivered to the table allowing guests time to sit and relax or grab a quick bite. With more than 500 locations nationwide, from California to Connecticut, guests can find a location nearest them and take a tour of the World Kitchen menu by visiting www.noodles.com.

Media Contact Erin Murphy Noodles & Company 720-214-1971 press@noodles.com