

Panera Bread Co., a St. Louis-based restaurant chain, has selected sites for its first two Palm Beach County restaurants.

Partners **Dale Wiggins** and **Bill Walsh**, both of Wichita, Kan., are expected to open their first eatery in November at **Mission Bay Plaza** west of Boca Raton, broker **Jonathan Satter** said. The second location will follow early next year near the **Mall at Wellington Green** in Wellington. The 1.3-million-square-foot mall opens Oct. 5 at Forest Hill Boulevard and State Road 7.

Each of the sit-down eateries will be about 4,200 square feet.

The 285-restaurant chain, which operates under the Panera Bread and **St. Louis Bread Co.** names, prefers suburban markets, but it is expected to do some downtown deals, Satter said.

Wiggins and Walsh, both longtime **Pizza Hut** execs, are shooting for 25 stores in Palm Beach and Broward counties during the next couple of years.

Panera's share price (Nasdaq: PNRA) has ballooned to the \$35 range after trading near \$6 just last year.

That makes it one of the food industry's hottest stocks, with **Krispy Kreme** and **Starbucks Coffee**. Satter and **Don DeWoody**, both of West Palm Beach-based **Compass Realty Advisors**, represent all three companies.

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