

# AUSTIN BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## **Burger 21 plans first Austin location**

Burger 21, a Tampa, Florida-based burger chain is set to open its first Austin restaurant in 2015, the company announced Wednesday.

Founded in 2010 by the owners of The Melting Pot chain, Burger 21 currently operates 12 locations in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey. The chain is also developing 20 locations nationwide including the one in Austin.

The Austin Burger 21 will be opening in the Arboretum area and first-time franchise owner Jose Haces will be managing the restaurant's day-to-day operations.

"It's a very exciting time in our company's history as developing a Burger 21 in Texas marks the brand's expansion into its ninth state," said Dan Stone, vice president of franchise development for Front Burner Brands, the management company for Burger 21, in a statement. "Texas will continue to be a prime target for our brand's development as we aim to open several new franchise locations across the state in additional cities such as Houston and Dallas. This is only the beginning for us."

The restaurant is known for its unconventional burger creations including chicken, tuna, shrimp and turkey burgers.

The Burger 21 brand was recently ranked No. 5 on restaurant industry news publication Fast Casual's 2014 list of 100 "Movers and Shakers."