



Shriver grabs a \$lice

Last Updated: 12:43 AM, March 1, 2013

Posted: 12:03 AM, March 1, 2013

Maria Shriver has a thing for pizza — or at least investing in a chain that sells it.

Shriver and other aficionados, including Boston Red Sox co-owner Tom Werner, Panda Express founder Andrew Cherng and movie producer John Davis, have dropped \$3 million into what they consider the next great fast-casual dining brand: Blaze Pizza.

“We love pizza,” Shriver, California’s former first lady, said. “My son and I are really excited to be in the pizza business.”

Investors are looking at chains like Blaze as millennials flock to fast-casual eateries with prices under \$10 for fare healthier than fast food.

While this segment is the fastest-growing among restaurants, few chains are publicly traded for investors to put money into. Everyone is looking for the next Chipotle Mexican Grill.

“The idea of being able to go to a restaurant and decide how to make your individual pizza and have it taste good in less than 2 minutes — that sounded like a good idea,” the Red Sox’s Werner said.

Blaze has two locations, in Irvine and Pasadena, Calif.

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