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Lil Caesar's Hot and Ready Versus Papa Murphy's Take and Bake Pizza

Everybody Likes Getting in and Out of a Store in a Couple Minutes, Which Company Has the Better Product

By **Curtis Carper**

A couple weeks ago the first of three new Lil Caesar's pizza stores opened in Duluth. Their new draw to bring in customers is, no waiting. Pizza's are made ahead and are Hot and Ready when you come in to get them. No calling ahead, just walk in and they're ready to go. For \$5 you can get a large Cheese, Peperoni, or Sausage pizza, ready to go, anytime they're open, with no waiting.

Sounded like an interesting gimmick. Many a pizza fan has suffered from an intense unscheduled pizza attack, and this seemed like the perfect answer. I've had Lil Caesar's pizza in years past, and I remembered them to be satisfactory.

For the past year we have been buying our pizza's at Papa Murphy's. Their Take and Bake pizza's, advertised as the Award Winning Best Pizza Chain in America, has met our needs very well.

To insure an unbiased comparison we will compare the Cheese Pizza of both chains first. Papa Murphy's deLight Cheese, is a large for \$5.99. There is no sales tax, as in Minnesota uncooked, or unfinished foods avoid restaurant taxes. There store is located about 7 minutes closer to home, which is about half the time required to cook the pizza. Out of the oven you have a nice crisp crust, with excellent cheese. Nice and gooey, and excellent taste.

Lil Caesar's Hot and Ready Cheese Pizza, also a large costs \$5.00. With sales tax, as it is cooked, it came to \$5.40. With the distance from home being about 5 miles at 30mph. By the time the pizza got to the table it was barely luke warm. The cheese had solidified and the crust was down right chewy. At its best I rate it a fair tasting pizza, even with reheating. Without the special hot boxes used by pizza delivery people, its not going to be hot when you get it home no matter what you do.

A couple weeks later I did another swing into Lil Caesar's for a quick sausage pizza for lunch, again, even though I took a quicker route home, I had to reheat it to make it appealing enough to eat.

Later again I went back to Papa Murphy's, ordered a deLight cheese for my wife, and sausage and mushroom for myself. It took less than 5 minutes for them to fill my order and I was on my way. Now the beauty of this was that I was driving by in the middle of the day, I picked up the pizza's and took them home to the refrigerator. That evening it took 13 minutes in the oven and dinner was on the table. Piping hot and gooey, just the way we like it.

There is good reason Papa Murphy's has won the Best Chain Award so many years in succession, they are the best, hands down. The quality of their ingredients and the end product that comes out of your oven says it all. By the way, while I was there I mentioned I had tried the "Other Guy" and assured them I was back for good. They said I wasn't the first to make the same comment.

What good is the convenience of Hot and Ready if when you get it home it's Cold and Soggy.

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