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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAIRMONT AND PARTNERS COMPLETE THE SALE OF GARDEN FRESH

Yorba Linda, CA, October 18, 2005 -- Fairmont Capital, Inc., a private equity investment firm based in Orange County, California, announced that Fairmont and its co-investors have completed the sale of Garden Fresh Restaurant Corp. to an investment company controlled by Sun Capital Partners, Inc. for a purchase price of \$198 million. Fairmont's co-investors in Garden Fresh included Centre Partners Management LLC, Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company and management.

Michael Gibbons, President of Fairmont stated, "This is a great transaction for our selling group and for the buyer. Since we and our partners took Garden Fresh private in March 2004, the company has really been on a roll operationally and financially. We helped Garden Fresh gain a new focus on its menu development and marketing. The strategy has worked wonderfully with comp store sales running at about 8%."

Mr. Gibbons added that "Garden Fresh has also restarted its growth plan and has several new restaurant locations under development. Sun Capital will be able to take advantage of this growth and enhance it."

Commenting on the less than two year hold on this investment, Timothy Greenleaf, Managing Director of Fairmont stated, "We knew this shorter holding period was one of our likely options when we acquired Garden Fresh. Our goal was always to buy it smartly, improve its performance, pay down some debt and consider a sale. Fortunately for our investment group, this happened quickly."

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This Garden Fresh transaction is similar to Fairmont's previous investment in VICORP Restaurants, Inc. In the VICORP transaction, Fairmont partnered with Bank Boston Capital and Goldner Hawn Johnson & Morrison, Inc. They took VICORP private in May 2001 and sold it in July 2003.

Mr. Greenleaf explained that, "Fairmont likes to pursue going-private opportunities as we did when we first approached Garden Fresh in mid-2003. Many publicly traded corporations with under \$1 billion in market capitalization find that they are trapped. Their stock trades in a narrow range, with little correlation to their earnings. There is little liquidity for their shareholders, because there is little or no trading in the stock. No analysts will cover them. Yet the board of directors and officers still have all the fiduciary duties of being public, the reporting responsibilities of being public and the costs of being public, while effectively receiving none of the benefits of being public. A going-private transaction provides the shareholders with the liquidity they desire, while allowing us to acquire the company at a reasonable purchase price".

About Fairmont Capital, Inc.:

Fairmont Capital, Inc. is a private investment company whose primary focus is the acquisition of seasoned operating companies. Fairmont Capital seeks those situations in which long-term capital appreciation can be achieved through the combination of creative management, new strategies and quality corporate assets. Since 1986, Fairmont Capital and its affiliates have completed acquisitions in various consumer products and service industries to build portfolio companies. Consumer industries that Fairmont Capital has invested in include furniture, apparel, catalog companies, auction houses, and restaurants.

About Garden Fresh:

Garden Fresh is a leading national soup, salad and pasta buffet restaurant chain with 97 locations in 15 states, over \$245 million of annual revenues, and EBITDA of approximately \$30 million. Operating under the names Souplantation® and Sweet Tomatoes®, Garden Fresh offers a broad variety of fresh food alternatives in a healthy "all-you-care-to-eat" format. Each restaurant has two 55 foot long salad bars stocked with fresh salads, soups, pastas, muffins and specialty breads. Garden Fresh has a strong history of stable financial performance, with positive same store sales growth over ten consecutive fiscal years.

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