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Carrabba's Italian Grill Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Tampa, Florida, December 2006 -- *Carrabba's Italian Grill* is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Tuesday, December 26th. Since its humble beginnings as a small family-owned restaurant in Houston, Texas, *Carrabba's* has become renowned for its flavorful hand prepared recipes.

"This is a significant milestone for *Carrabba's*," says Johnny Carrabba who co-founded the restaurant in 1986 with his uncle, Damian Mandola. "Our family is very proud of the growth and success of *Carrabba's* and the number of lives that we've touched across the country, from our customers to our employees. We are appreciative and extremely grateful for the loyalty and support of our customers over the years – we look forward to serving them for many years to come."

The recipient of glowing accolades from culinary publications throughout the country, *Carrabba's* was recently named the top rated Italian concept in terms of quality and service by *Restaurants & Institutions Magazine's* "2006 Consumers' Choice in Chains Survey."

"Our original goal was to create the type of restaurant that one would find in New York's Little Italy – casual and lively with superior Italian food," says Carrabba. "We have never lost sight of our roots. Our legacy of delivering fresh, flavorful food and warm hospitality remains at the core of our business."

If any two people were "born to cook," it is certainly Carrabba and Mandola. These two kindred spirits share a passion for food and hospitality matched only by their love of family and friends. Part of a close-knit family whose ancestors came to the United States from Sicily in the late 1890s, they have grown up surrounded by wonderful food. Beyond their notoriety in the restaurants, they have become well-known names throughout the country as hosts of three seasons of the popular PBS cooking show series, *Cucina*. They have also published three cookbooks in association with the show.

Carrabba's currently operates in 32 states and has 217 restaurants.

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