



**Date: October 26, 2006**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## For the Love of the Food!

Carrabba's Italian Grill  
Opens in Durham, NC

Carrabba's Italian Grill will open its doors to diners at 4:00 PM on Monday, November 6, 2006. Located at 5312 New Hope Commons Extension, Carrabba's features Italian specialties made from original family recipes handed down over generations. The lively exhibition kitchen, fresh-from scratch food, and friendly, knowledgeable staff give the restaurant a welcoming appeal to diners who will make this a favorite dinner destination seven days a week.

In keeping with Carrabba's commitment to its communities, the new restaurant will donate a generous portion of opening night sales to the Durham YMCAs.

Founders Johnny Carrabba and Damian Mandola, hosts of the popular PBS cooking show, *Cucina Toscana*, established Carrabba's legacy of delivering fresh, flavorful food when they opened the first Carrabba's in Houston, Texas in 1986. Family recipes and the use of only the finest ingredients have been at the core of the restaurant's success. These passionate restaurateurs have searched the world over for the highest quality ingredients from mussels rope grown off the coast of Prince Edward Island, to Garofalo pasta imported from a small town outside Pompei, Italy, to extra virgin olive oil from Spain.

"When Damian and I decided to start Carrabba's we wanted our customers to feel like they were in our kitchens at home," said founder Johnny Carrabba. "From the very beginning Carrabba's has been a fun place to hang out with family and friends, just like the kitchens Damian and I grew up in. For us, cooking is a passion and a way of life. Being able to share these special recipes with our guests is a labor of love, and a kiss to our parents and grandparents."

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Carrabba's signature dishes include crispy *Calamari*, *Cozze in Bianco* (white wine steamed mussels), *Chicken Marsala*, *Filet Fiorentina* and fresh fish cooked over a wood-fired grill. Other long-time favorites include homemade *Lasagne*, *Chicken Parmesan* and hand-tossed pizza baked in a wood-burning oven. A moderately-priced wine list featuring Italian and California vintages complement menu selections.

Carrabba's ensures customers a feeling of genuine hospitality, coupled with interiors that feature colorful Italian ceramics, copper pots and framed black and white photos of the Carrabba/Mandola clan. The large exhibition kitchen and flickering embers from the pizza oven further enhance the bustling scene. Several prime seats fronting the kitchen allow diners to watch the lively cooks preparing each meal to order.

The popularity of Carrabba's led to the PBS cooking show *Cucina Toscana*, hosted by Carrabba and Mandola now in their third season, and a companion cookbook titled *Ciao Tuscany*, available in bookstores.

Over the years the restaurants have received a number of media accolades, including: "Carrabba's worth its wait in savory Italian flavors" *Washington Post*; "Menu is a crowd pleaser at Carrabba's Italian Grill", *Miami Herald*; "Mama Mia! Now that's Italian", *Tulsa World*; "Carrabba's Italian Grill does not disappoint." *Detroit Free Press*; "...ay Carrabba's!", *The Detroit News*.

Carrabba's Italian Grill is a partnership of Outback Steakhouse, Inc. (NYSE:OSI) which operates Outback Steakhouse, Bonefish Grill, Roy's, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Lee Roy Selmon's, Cheeseburger In Paradise and Blue Coral Seafood & Spirits.

Carrabba's will open to the public on November 6, 2006. Managing Partner for Durham is Jason Robitelle.

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