

MEDIA CONTACT: Elizabeth Watts 813-830-4967 ElizabethWatts@bloominbrands.co

Carrabba's Italian Grill Opens in North

Jacksonville New Location Serves Lunch and Expanded Menu

Jacksonville, FL (July 29, 2013) – *Carrabba's Italian Grill* will open on August 5 at 791 Skymarks Drive in the River City Marketplace in Jacksonville, Florida. The new restaurant features an expanded menu and will open for lunch daily at 11 a.m.

"This is a new area for us. It's our first restaurant in the north Jacksonville area and we're looking forward to providing residents and travelers an excellent dining experience," said David Patin, Managing Partner of *Carrabba's* North Jacksonville.

An award-winning restaurant inspired by the many tastes of Italy, *Carrabba's* serves fresh, flavorful Italian dishes prepared with the finest ingredients. *Carrabba's* North Jacksonville will open its doors for business at 11:00 a.m. immediately following a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce at 10:30 a.m.

To show its support of the local community, 50 percent of *Carrabba's* opening day sales (up to \$5,000.00) will benefit the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in Jacksonville to help purchase medical equipment, child life activities and educational resources for the pediatric programs. "Carrabba's is truly a generous community partner, who recognizes the importance of supporting our local children and families. We are extremely grateful to have this opportunity to raise funds and awareness for the pediatric programs at UF Health Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's

Hospital," said Kerri Solomon Clark, Director, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Expanded Menu & Lunch

While *Carrabba's* favorites like Chicken Marsala are still on the menu, look for some exciting new dishes like the Prosciutto Wrapped Pork Tenderloin topped with a fig wine sauce and Mahi Wolfe, wood-grilled and topped with artichoke, sundried tomato and house made basil lemon butter sauce. The new menu features over 15 new flavorful Italian dishes for \$15 or less.

For lunch, *Carrabba's* will offer a fast and affordable variety of dishes including our Shrimp Orzo and Arugula Salad with wood-grilled shrimp served over orzo and arugula tossed with lemon vinaigrette and the Chicken Bryan Panini on baked focaccia with a basil goat cheese spread, sundried tomato aioli and arugula with lemon vinaigrette. Guests can also enjoy lunch combinations with two choices of soup, salad, half-panini or individual sized Roman style pizza. Lunch-sized portions of some *Carrabba's* favorites including Chicken Parmesan and Sirloin Marsala are also available.

Atmosphere & Design

Carrabba's transports customers to a warm, authentic Italian experience every time they walk through the doors, featuring an open kitchen, relaxed and casual dining room and bar. The new *Carrabba's* look features a mix of traditional and contemporary design that includes family tables, an open kitchen atmosphere and a modern Italian bar.

Family tables are large tables that seat up to ten people and are perfect for large gatherings of family and friends, a deep-routed Italian tradition. Our open kitchen atmosphere includes the Kitchen Counter, where guests can experience exhibition style cooking as dishes are prepared right in front of them. Kitchen Tables are another feature of *Carrabba's* open kitchen atmosphere where guests can see fresh and flavorful Italian dishes prepared. The modern, authentic Italian bar includes community tables where friends can meet and enjoy favorite dishes and cocktails.

Carrabba's North Jacksonville

The new *Carrabba's* is located at 791 Skymarks Drive, in the River City Marketplace at I-95 and Airport Road in Jacksonville, Florida. Hours of operation are Mon. to Thurs. from 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. from 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.; and Sun. from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Call ahead seating is available by calling the restaurant at 904-751-9976.

For on-the-go guests, *Carrabba's* also offers convenient Carside Carry-Out. You can call the restaurant or simply place your order online. For more information about *Carrabba's*, please visit <u>www.Carrabbas.com</u>, <u>www.Facebook.com/Carrabbas</u> or <u>www.Twitter.com/Carrabbas</u>.

About Carrabba's Italian Grill

Johnny Carrabba and Damian Mandola founded the first *Carrabba's Italian Grill* in 1986 in Houston, Texas. Today, there are 237 *Carrabba's* locations around the country, run by passionate local proprietors focused on delighting guests with fresh, made-to-order Italian cuisine and the ultimate dining experience.

Carrabba's serves an array of classic Italian favorites, using fresh ingredients in handmade recipes passed down for more than four generations. Best known for its wood-burning grill, signature dishes like Chicken Bryan, Pollo Rosa Maria and Marsala are enhanced by the taste of the grill. Traditional dishes such as Calamari, Margherita Pizza and Chicken Parmesan share the spotlight. A Gluten Free menu is also available as well as multiple entrée options Under 600 calories. *Carrabba's o*ffers a full bar, a moderately-priced wine list featuring Italian and California vintages, a premium selection of domestic and imported beers, and seasonal cocktail specialties. With friendly bartenders and knowledgeable staff - known as "Micos" (short for Amico, which means friend in Italian), *Carrabba's* is a favorite neighborhood destination seven days a week.

About The Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

The Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is dedicated to improving the health and welfare of all children by raising funds and awareness for the pediatric programs of UF Health Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital. A founding principle of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is that all funds raised stay local. Therefore, everything raised in the Northeast Florida/Southeast Georgia area is used to purchase medical equipment, child life activities and educational resources for the pediatric programs of UF Health Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

###