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Carrabba's Italian Grill Opens in Cinco Ranch

New Location Serves Lunch, Features New Design and Expanded Menu

Katy, TX (July 1, 2013) – *Carrabba's Italian Grill* will open on July 8 in the Grand Lakes Shopping Center at 6501 South Fry Road in the Cinco Ranch area of Katy, Texas. The new restaurant features a new design, expanded menu and will open for lunch daily at 11 a.m.

"This is a new Carrabba's with a new experience. *Carrabba's* Cinco Ranch is the first location in Texas to have an indoor/outdoor bar that's filled with energy, but still celebrates the warm Italian hospitality that people have come to know and love," said Managing Partner Mark Kolter. "We're also excited to share our new menu that offers more than 15 new, high-quality, handcrafted dishes for \$15 or less."

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* Cinco Ranch will open its doors for business at 11:00 a.m. immediately following a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

To show its support of the local communities, 50 percent of *Carrabba's* opening day sales (up to \$5,000.00) will benefit the Katy ISD Education Foundation, a local non-profit charity that serves as a catalyst for extraordinary teachers to create extraordinary classroom experiences. "We are honored to partner with Carrabba's as they join our Katy community by impacting some of our most valued citizens: Katy ISD teachers and students," said Chris Crockett, President, Katy ISD Education Foundation Board of Directors.

New 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, a kitchen counter and an indoor/outdoor bar.

Family tables are large tables that seat up to eight 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.

The indoor/outdoor bar gives guests the option to sit inside or outside on a patio – both great places to meet up with friends and enjoy favorite dishes or cocktails.

Expanded Menu & Lunch

Carrabba's has expanded its menu to include several new items such as Prosciutto-Wrapped Pork Tenderloin and Lobster Mac & Cheese. Guests will also still be able to enjoy classic favorites such as Chicken Bryan or Sirloin Marsala. 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 & Arugula Salad with wood-grilled shrimp and the Caprese Panini with whole milk mozzarella, Roma tomatoes and fresh basil. 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 Bryan and Chicken or Sirloin Marsala are also available.

Carrabba's Cinco Ranch

Located at 6501 South Fry Road in Katy, *Carrabba's Italian Grill* is open 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 281-665-1320.

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 Katy ISD Education Foundation

The Katy ISD Education Foundation provides resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and enhance opportunities for students. Katy ISD uses grants and donations to support creative education programs that teachers develop. More information is available at: <u>http://www.katyisdeducationfoundation.org</u>.

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