



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Amelia Turney
MS&L
(404) 870-6871

Stephanie Amberg
Carrabba's Italian Grill
(813) 282-1225

Carrabba's Italian Grill Takes Flight with New Opening at Tampa International Airport

TAMPA, Fla., November 2008 – One of Tampa's favorite restaurants known for its lively atmosphere is ready to offer travelers at Tampa International Airport a warm Italian "ciao" right in time for the holidays. On **Nov. 25, 2008**, the airport will celebrate the grand opening of Carrabba's Italian Grill in the main terminal. The restaurant features Italian specialties made from original family recipes handed down over four generations. This is the first Carrabba's to open in an airport and will feature traditional menu favorites as well as a new "grab and go" menu.

"Carrabba's is thrilled to be offering a full service restaurant experience as well as new carry-out menu items in Tampa International Airport right in time to warm the hearts of holiday travelers," said Steve Shlemon, president of Carrabba's Italian Grill. "Our goal is to give travelers an immediate sense of being among family and friends when they step into our new Carrabba's location."

Carrabba's signature dishes include crispy *Calimari*, *Chicken Marsala*, *Filet Fiorentina* and fresh fish. Other long-time favorites include homemade *Lasagne*, *Chicken Parmesan* and handmade pizza. The "grab and go" menu includes an assortment of salads, including the *Insalata Carrabba with Chicken*, and panini's, including the *Italian Panini*.

Over the years Carrabba's has received a number of media accolades, including: "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*

—more—

Carrabba's Opens in Tampa International Airport – page two

Press; and “...ay Carrabba’s!” *The Detroit News*. Carrabba’s was also honored with the first place Platinum Award in the best Italian restaurant category in *Restaurants & Institutions* magazine’s 2008 Consumers’ Choice in Chains awards. This is the fourth consecutive year in which Carrabba’s has been recognized in this category.

Carrabba’s will open to Tampa International Airport travelers and visitors on **Nov. 25, 2008, at 11 a.m.** Managing Partner for the Tampa International Airport location is Dan Scavelli.

About Carrabba’s Italian Grill

Carrabba’s Italian Grill was founded by Johnny Carrabba and Damian Mandola in Houston, Texas in 1986. The restaurant features hand-prepared family recipes made from the finest ingredients and prepared to order in an exhibition kitchen. The success of Carrabba’s led to the popular PBS cooking show *Cucina!*, starring Carrabba and Mandola, as well as a series of companion cookbooks. There are currently 238 Carrabba’s Italian Grill locations around the country. For more information, please visit www.carrabbas.com.

###