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Contacts:

Amelia Turney  
MS&L  
(404) 870-6871

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

## Carrabba's Italian Grill Puts an Artful Twist on Italian Classics

*Restaurant introduces new specials, available now through June*

**TAMPA, Fla., April 8, 2009** – Carrabba's Italian Grill invites guests to enjoy new menu items featuring artful twists on Italian classics available now through June. **The Johnny** provides guests with three generous portions of their favorite Carrabba's dishes on one plate along with soup or salad at a great value. The dish features a flavorful combination of original family recipes, including **Sirloin Marsala, Chicken Bryan** and **Mezzaluna Ravioli**, selected by founder Johnny Carrabba.

Guests looking for a new favorite will adore the **Pollo Caprino**, featuring fire-roasted chicken amply stuffed with red bell peppers, grilled zucchini and caprino, a soft, creamy Italian cheese. The restaurant's coveted Marsala wine sauce is poured over the dish, topped with fresh, diced tomatoes and served with grilled vegetables. For a casual night out, guests will enjoy **Mr. C's Italian Fennel Sausage Pizza**, which includes Mr. C's "top secret" family recipe for Italian fennel sausage, roasted bell peppers, mozzarella and goat cheese.

Carrabba's spring sensations include the **Penne Franco** and the **Steak and Blue Cheese Salad**. The Penne Franco features penne pasta tossed with fresh grilled chicken, sautéed mushrooms, sundried tomatoes, artichoke hearts and black olives topped with ricotta salata cheese. A greener alternative is the **Steak and Blue Cheese Salad** with roasted red and gold beets, fennel, red onions, field greens and blue cheese. The salad is tossed in a zesty balsamic vinaigrette dressing and topped with tender, sliced sirloin steak.

As the perfect complement to any dish, Carrabba's has an extensive, award-winning wine list. Guests can enjoy a mid-week "break" every Wednesday by receiving \$10 off any bottle of wine during Carrabba's **"Wine Wednesdays."**

“We are bringing Italian classics and Carrabba’s favorites to the forefront of our menu at a great value,” said co-founder Johnny Carrabba. “With menu items, such as The Johnny, guests don’t have to choose from among their favorite dishes; they can have hearty portions of them all on one plate. And our Wine Wednesdays provide guests with another reason to find the perfect bottle of wine to pair with their entrée.”

### **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 231 Carrabba’s Italian Grill 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 dinner seven nights a week in a casual environment that pairs innovative dishes and a complementary wine list with abundant hospitality. For on-the-go guests, Carrabba’s also offers convenient Carside Carry-Out. To learn more about Carrabba’s, please visit [www.carrabbas.com](http://www.carrabbas.com).

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