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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Criollo Restaurant and Lounge Now Open for Lunch

New Orleans, LA (June 19, 2012) - One of the most highly anticipated new restaurants of the year is now open for both breakfast and lunch!

Criollo Restaurant and Lounge, located at Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street, is now serving both lunch and breakfast.

The French Quarter restaurant features a menu that highlights the blended flavors and cultures of New Orleans. Led by Chef de Cuisine Joseph Maynard and Executive Chef Randolph Buck, Criollo's dishes are infused with traditional Creole flavors of French, Spanish, Italian, Caribbean and African with new spices to create dishes in the style it calls Louisiana Fusion.

Criollo, the Spanish word for "Creole," represents the amalgam of cultures reflected in our cooking and the unique tastes that comprise Louisiana cuisine.

Two of Criollo's signature breakfast dishes include: Eggs Tchoupitoulas served with two basted eggs, boudin blanc, fried green tomato and a house made country biscuit; and Spa Aria, a healthy tribute to the Hotel's in-house Spa, featuring an egg-white omelet filled with asparagus, wild mushrooms, jalapeno pepper, gruyere cheese and a roasted tomato coulis. The omelet also offers a choice of seasonal berries or a Louisiana fruit & nut granola parfait.

For lunch, guests can dine on succulent specialties such as Sugarcane Skewered Swordfish, accompanied by a curried quinoa salad, mango, black beans, heirloom cucumbers and a mint garnish. A second featured dish includes Pan Seared Diver Scallops & Short Ribs on a bed of white truffle risotto with red onion marmalade.

In addition to fine cuisine, Criollo Restaurant and Lounge offers a grand assortment of wines and spirits, including a signature Criollo Cocktail. The one-of-a-kind libation features Old New Orleans Cajun Spice Rum, Agave Nectar, Club Soda, Fresh Lemons and Mint Leaves.

Criollo Restaurant and Lounge opens for dinner later this year. Located next to the famous Carousel Bar and Lounge, the restaurant resides inside the Hotel Monteleone. Reservations are recommended and

can be made by calling 504-681-4444 or by visiting www.criollonola.com. 3-hour parking validation will be offered to Criollo dining guests in both the Hotel Monteleone and Solaris' parking garages (the Solaris parking garage is located at 721 Iberville). For more information and regular updates about Criollo Restaurant and Lounge, please visit www.criollonola.com.

Established in 2012, Criollo Restaurant and Lounge combines the traditional Creole flavors of French, Spanish, Italian, and African influences with new spices to create a Contemporary Louisiana cuisine. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and is located in the heart of the New Orleans French Quarter inside the historic Hotel Monteleone. For more information, please visit www.criollonola.com.

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