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**POLLO TROPICAL® TOPS A POPULAR FAVORITE
IN UNVEILING THE CREATE YOUR OWN TROPICHOP®**

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The Pollo Tropical® TropiChop®, which has been a menu favorite for nearly 15 years, is being redesigned so customers can “Create their own” with an expanded line of rice and other ‘base’ options, plus expanded toppings and even new sauces from the salsa bar. In addition to more choices, guests will also receive more chicken, as the company is doubling the amount of chicken served by 50 percent.

The Create Your Own TropiChop will be available in all company owned Pollo Tropical restaurant locations as of December 19. Customers can order a Create Your Own TropiChop and a regular drink for just \$4.99.

There is a simple four-step process to ordering a TropiChop. First, guests decide whether they want grilled chicken, slow roasted pork or a vegetarian build. Then they order their ‘base’, choosing either the ever-popular yellow rice with vegetables, white rice, the all-new brown rice, romaine lettuce, or a combination of lettuce and rice. Then guests order as many toppings as they like. Their choices include made-from-scratch beans, chopped fresh tomatoes, kernel corn, sautéed onions or “sofrito” – a blend of sautéed peppers and onions. Lastly, they pile on their choice of salsas or sauces from the Pollo Tropical recently-expanded fresh salsa bar.

The expanded salsa bar includes classic customer favorites like Guava BBQ, Regular BBQ, freshly-made Salsa, Curry Mustard, Cilantro Garlic, Onions and Ketchup – but will now also include Jalapeños and the new, proprietary Pollo Tropical Spicy Poyo Poyo Sauce. The new sauce is made from spicy island chili peppers that are fire-grilled on the premises and then whisked with vinegar and exotic Caribbean spices to create a flavorful, low-calorie sauce with a kick that’s perfect on any Pollo Tropical chicken dish.

“The TropiChop line has enjoyed a very loyal following, so we exhaustively tested any modifications for more than a year to make sure our guests were happy with the changes,” said Kim Miller, Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Pollo Tropical. “What our guests told us throughout the testing period is that they love the new-found flexibility and options the Create Your Own line offers.”

In fact, according to Pollo Tropical, there are now hundreds of different combinations available.

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“The Create Your Own TropiChop further expands our ability to allow customers to create meals customized to their own taste. Now we can offer a special TropiChop that’s tailor-made to each person,” added Miller. “Customers can come back and try new combinations at different day-parts, with friends or the whole family.”

About Pollo Tropical®

Pollo Tropical® restaurants are known for their fresh, never frozen, open flame grilled chicken, marinated in a proprietary blend of tropical fruit juices and spices, as well as authentic “made from scratch” side dishes. The first Pollo Tropical restaurant opened in 1988 in Miami, Florida. Today, Pollo Tropical has more than 90 company-owned restaurants in Florida, New Jersey and Georgia. It also has three franchised locations at Florida universities and more than 25 franchised restaurants in Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Trinidad & Tobago, Honduras, Venezuela and the Bahamas.

Pollo Tropical is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc., an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc., which is one of the largest restaurant companies in the United States. The Company operates three restaurant brands in the quick-casual and quick-service restaurant segments, with 550 company-owned and operated restaurants in 16 states. Carrols is also the largest Burger King® franchisee, based on number of restaurants. In the Carrols’ family of companies, Fiesta Restaurant Group owns and operates two Hispanic Brand restaurant chains, Pollo Tropical® and Taco Cabana®. In 2011 Carrols announced plans to spin-off Fiesta Restaurant Group as a stand-alone public company. For more information on Pollo Tropical®, including menu items and nutritional information, visit online at .

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