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TACO JOHN'S® BRINGS BIGGER. BOLDER. BETTER. FLAVORS TO MICHIGAN
Popular quick-service restaurant to make Great Lake State debut with three locations opening in Grand Rapids area and aims to hire 150 new team members

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (Nov. 2, 2022) – This December, Grand Rapids will soon be able to *Olé The Day* with the ValuEST menu, original tacos, fan-favorite burritos, specialty Potato Olés® and more at Taco John's.

The popular Mexican quick-service restaurant signed franchise agreements with Meritage Hospitality Group to open three Taco John's locations in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area. The first location will open on December 5, the second location on December 12 and the third location on December 19.

“We’re excited to introduce *bigger. bolder. better.* flavors to the Grand Rapids area,” said Meritage Hospitality Group President, Gary Rose. “We plan to develop 200 Taco John's restaurants in the next several years, but these three locations have an extra special place being that they are the first in our hometown. We can't wait for the debut and look forward to our continued expansion which will bring many more job opportunities to the community.”

All three Grand Rapids-area Taco John's will begin hiring this month and are looking to fill 100-150 positions from entry-level to management.

With its fusion of distinctive flavors and south-of-the-border spices, the Taco John's menu offers several signature items, including Meat & Potato Burritos, Stuffed Grilled Tacos, Potato Olés® and bold and crave-worthy Fried Chicken Tacos. Taco John's features signature specials like Taco Tuesday® and the everyday \$1-\$2-\$3 ValuEST Menu. Download the [Taco John's App](#) and like Taco John's [Facebook page](#) for exclusive deals.

To learn more about Taco John's visit, tacojohns.com.

About Taco John's®

Founded in 1969 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Taco John's® has been serving *bigger. bolder. better.* flavors for more than 50 years. Now, Taco John's operates and franchises nearly 400 restaurants in 22 states – making it one of the largest Mexican quick-service restaurant brands in America. With bold originals like Potato Olés®, Taco John's knows how to Olé The Day. Taco John's prides itself on serving generous portions of its signature menu items that are made-to-order using fresh, high-quality ingredients, seasonings and sauces. The brand was listed No. 7 in the “Mexican Food” category on *Entrepreneur's* “Top Food Franchises of 2022” and was recently recognized by *QSR Magazine* as a “Top 15 Chain Ready to Contend

as Fast Food's Top Players." Taco John's is led by CEO Jim Creel, who was named one of "The Most Influential Restaurant CEOs in the Country" by *Nation's Restaurant News* in 2022. For more information, visit tacojohns.com and follow Taco John's on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [TikTok](#).

About Meritage Hospitality Group

Meritage Hospitality Group, headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is one of the nation's premier franchise operators, with 350 restaurants and approximately 11,000 employees located across 16 states in the U.S. The Company is one of the largest Wendy's restaurant operators in the world, and owns several proprietary restaurant brands including Morning Belle. The Company recently entered into a development agreement to build up to 200 Taco John's restaurants in the midwestern U.S. commencing in 2022.

At fiscal year-end 2021, the Company had total Diluted Weighted Average Shares Outstanding of 9,631,000 and Fully Diluted EPS of \$1.81.

The Company's current and publicly available information pursuant to SEC Rule 15c2-11 and FINRA Rule 6432 can be found at www.otcmarkets.com, under the stock symbol MHGU/Disclosures or the Company's website, www.meritagehospitality.com.

Certain information in this new release, particularly information regarding future economic performance and finances, and plans, expectations and objectives of management, constitutes forward-looking statements. Factors set forth in our Safe Harbor Statement, in addition to other possible factors not listed, could affect the Company's actual results and cause such results to differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. Please review the Company's Safe Harbor Statement at <http://www.meritagehospitality.com>.

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