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SAVOR THE WEEKEND WITH THE *SOUTHERN BREEZE* WINE + CULINARY FESTIVAL

The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival visits Baton Rouge, La. featuring wine dinners, a wine tasting, a walkabout brunch, and much more April 4-6, 2008.

Baton Rouge, La. March 11, 2008— Baton Rouge will be home to the *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival **April 4-6**, 2008. This three-day event travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with Wine Dinners, wine tastings, seminars, and a Walkabout Brunch. Again this year, the festival teams up with industry-leading appliance manufacturer [DCS by Fisher & Paykel](#) to bring the festival to Baton Rouge, La.

The weekend-long event brings travelers from all over the U.S. as well as locals to the capital of Louisiana to celebrate food, wine, and Gulf Coast culture. “We are anticipating the festivals return to Louisiana. Last year’s event in Baton Rouge was a huge success and we are looking forward to a bigger, better experience this year,” says Paul Arrigo, CDME, President & CEO of the [Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau](#).

On Friday evening, guests can experience the ultimate pairing during one of the **Wine Dinners**. During these five-course gourmet affairs, local chefs pair their signature cuisine with boutique wines from noted winemakers. The Hilton Capitol Center is honored to host one of these dinners as celebrity chef Tim Creehan partners with Executive Chef Michael Loupe of the Hilton to create an unforgettable meal paired with vintages presented by Franck Lambert of Lodi, California. A second dinner will take place at Vic’s Chophouse with the delectable cuisine of Chef Victor Pickich.

Saturday will feature the **Grand Wine Tasting** on the scenic grounds of the Old Louisiana State Capitol, the tasting features over 150 boutique wines available to sample in a relaxed, yet invigorating atmosphere. Wine seminars will be presented by **Michael Bryan**, executive director of Atlanta Wine School, and culinary seminars by **Chef Tim Creehan** give guests the opportunity to heighten the Grand Wine Tasting experience. Most wines being poured during Saturday’s event will be available for purchase and all retail wine sales are sponsored by the [Louisiana Restaurant Association](#).

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The weekend is brought to a close on Sunday with the **Walkabout Brunch**, also held on the grounds of the Old Louisiana State Capitol. This event will bring featured local restaurants to the grounds of the Old Louisiana State Capitol as they serve their signature delicacies, each paired with a champagne or sparkling wine. Awards will be given for the “Best of Brunch” and People’s Choice” competitions during the event. A sampling of participating restaurants include **The Little Village, Capital City Grille, D’Agostino’s, Desserts First, The Steakhouse at Hollywood Casino and Copeland’s of New Orleans.**

“We are committed to bringing the good life to the Gulf Coast. This festival is a chance for the community to showcase their talents and the richness of the area,” says Mark A. Newman editor of *Southern Breeze*. “Come help celebrate with us.”

The ***Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival*** is a three day event that blends premium wines, food, and Gulf Coast culture into an entertaining, educational, and exciting weekend-long event. This year marks the fifth season of the Festival with stops in **Biloxi, Mississippi; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Orange Beach, Alabama; and Beaches of South Walton, Florida.** For more information, visit www.southernbreeze.com/winefest or contact Karen Kirkland Ochoa at 800-239-9880 or kareno@compassbiz.com.

Southern Breeze magazine is published by **Compass Marketing, Inc.** based in Gulf Shores Ala. The quarterly upscale lifestyle magazine covers the Gulf Coast region from Louisiana through Northwest Florida. Each issue highlights the unique lifestyle, travel, culture, people, food and entertainment that make the region a wonderful place to live and visit. www.southernbreeze.com.

Compass Marketing, Inc. is a multi-functional marketing and publishing company serving clients in the travel and tourism industry throughout the Southeast. Compass is a leader in the field of tourism marketing and currently publishes more than 20 custom travel related publications. These publications and projects are created in the form of state, regional, local guides, vacation planners, newspaper and magazine inserts, interactive guides, special events, and other integrated programs.

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