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RENOWNED CULINARY AND WINE EXPERTS CREATE A GOURMET AFFAIR IN ORANGE BEACH

The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* visits the Alabama Gulf Coast featuring a gourmet Wine Dinner Friday, May 2.

Gulf Shores, Ala. April 24, 2008— Wine will flow in **Orange Beach** on **May 2** at the *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival Wine Dinner*. Top chefs and a noted winemaker will partner to create a gourmet dining experience to kick off this year's festival on Alabama's Gulf Coast. Orange Beach will be home to the *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* **May 2-4, 2008**. This three-day event travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with wine dinners, culinary competitions, wine tastings, seminars, and a brunch. Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the festival teams up with industry-leading appliance manufacturer [DCS by Fisher & Paykel](#) to bring the festival back to Orange Beach.

On Friday evening from 7-10 p.m., guests can experience the ultimate pairing at the luxurious **Wine Dinner**. During this five-course gourmet affair, a celebrity and local chef pair their signature cuisine with premium wines from a noted winemaker. Throughout each course, guests are educated on how each pairing brings out the distinct flavors in each dish.

[Villaggio Grille](#) at The Wharf is honored to host this year's dinner in Orange Beach as celebrity chef **Tim Creehan** partners with Villaggio's Executive Chef **Brody Olive** to create a delectable meal paired with elite wines presented by **Steven Sterling** of **Esterlina Vineyards**. Creehan, owner of Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill in Destin, Fla. will add his coastal flair to Olive's legendary creations for a one-of-a-kind dining experience. Each delicacy will be matched with Esterlina's award-winning wines, as Sterling entertains and educates guests on each sumptuous pairing.

"The Wine Dinner is always a highlight of the weekend. The chefs and winemaker featured at this year's festival in Orange Beach are phenomenal and I can assure they will create an incredible experience," Event Producer **J. Gary Ellis** said.

The weekend-long event brings travelers from all over the U.S. as well as locals to the beaches of Alabama to celebrate food, wine, and Gulf Coast culture. Guests are invited to watch as local chefs go head-to-head in a one-hour cooking competition on Saturday to compete for Alabama's title in the first annual *Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef Challenge*. The festival continues with Saturday's **Grand Wine Tasting** on the scenic grounds of The Wharf overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway as guests have the opportunity to sample up to 200

distinct wines from around the world and participate in educational wine and cooking seminars. The weekend comes to a close on Sunday with the **Walkabout Brunch**, also on the grounds of The Wharf, where the region's best restaurants offer their signature dishes paired with champagnes and sparkling wines.

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 **Santa Rosa Beach, 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.*

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