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## **TOP CHEFS ON GULF COAST COMPETE FOR ALABAMA'S TITLE SATURDAY**

**The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival presents Orange Beach's first annual Gulf Coast Chef Challenge Saturday, May 3.**

**Gulf Shores, Ala. April 29, 2008**— The top chefs in Orange Beach will go head-to-head Saturday during the first annual ***Southern Breeze* Gulf Coast Chef Challenge**. This event will feature invited chefs creating signature dishes during a live, one-hour cooking competition. The Chef Challenge is part of the ***Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival**, a three-day event that travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with a wine dinner, wine tastings, seminars, and a walkabout brunch. The weekend-long event brings travelers from all over the United States as well as locals to the shores of Alabama to celebrate food, wine, and Gulf Coast culture **May 2-4, 2008**.

The *Southern Breeze* Gulf Coast Chef Challenge will kick off Saturday's festivities at **11:30 a.m.** Guests are invited to this one-of-a-kind event, taking place in the **DCS by Fisher & Paykel Theater** located on the grounds of The Wharf overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. Each participant will be given a common protein, soft shell crab, and choose a starch and vegetable used to create a signature dish during this "Iron Chef" style competition performed on state-of-the-art DCS cooking systems.

Chefs vying for Alabama's title include **Chef Brody Olive**, Villaggio Grille; **Chef Doug Firestone**, Ginny Lane; **Chef Chris Sherrill**, Live Bait; **Chef Ashley Cabana**, NiX Steaks & Oysters; **Chef Angela Miller**, Distinctive Kitchens; **Chef Jack Baker**, Cosmo's; and **Chef Anthony Wilson**, Bayside Grill.

**Celebrity Chef Tim Creehan** of Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill in Destin, Fla. will be on hand to host the live one-hour cooking demonstration. At the end of the hour, a distinctive panel of judges will select the event's most outstanding chef to be named **Alabama's Top Chef**. The winner will go on to compete against winners from Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi later this year for title of ***Southern Breeze's* 2008 Gulf Coast Chef Challenge Chef of the Year**.

The winner will be announced at 1 p.m., prior to the Grand Wine Tasting Saturday afternoon. The Grand Wine Tasting, held on the scenic grounds of The Wharf Waterfront Park, will feature over 200 distinctive wines available to sample in a relaxed, yet invigorating atmosphere. The seminars throughout the day help to heighten the Grand Wine Tasting experience. Wine seminars will be presented by **Michael Bryan**, executive director of

Atlanta Wine School, and culinary seminars by **Chef Tim Creehan**. Most wines being poured during Saturday's event will be available for purchase through **Distinctive Kitchens**.

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, Miss.; Baton Rouge, La.; Orange Beach, Ala.; and Santa Rosa Beach, Florida**. For more information, visit [www.southernbreeze.com/winefest](http://www.southernbreeze.com/winefest) or contact Karen Kirkland Ochoa at 800-239-9880 or [kareno@compassbiz.com](mailto: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](http://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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