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## **THE SOUTHERN BREEZE WINE + CULINARY FESTIVAL GIVES BACK THROUGH ART**

**The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* will partner with artist Tracee Gentry to raise funds for the Baton Rouge March of Dimes.**

**Baton Rouge, La. April 1, 2008**— The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* is honored to announce a partnership with artist **Tracee Gentry** to benefit the March of Dimes this weekend in **Baton Rouge**. Gentry will be on hand creating a painting to be auctioned off during this weekend’s festival. The silent auction will take place during **Saturday’s Grand Wine Tasting** and **Sunday’s Walkabout Brunch**, also with a “buy it now” option. The bidding will end Sunday, April 6 at noon. All proceeds will benefit the Baton Rouge chapter of the **March of Dimes**.

“I’m looking forward to the festival in Baton Rouge. I like to give back – it’s my way of thanking God for my talents. I can’t write a big check, but I can give back through my painting,” says Gentry.

Gentry, who currently resides in Little Rock, Ark., has been a professional artist for 8 years. She specializes in painting wine sceneries and travels to wine festivals across the Southeast, performing live demonstrations and donating her artwork for charitable causes. Past events include the American Heart Association Festival of Wine, Amethyst Ball at the Governor’s Mansion, and the Pulaski County Humane Society Wine Tasting. Gentry usually creates commissioned pieces in which she incorporates her client’s favorite wines, special dates, and other specifics in each painting. Her work will be available for purchase during the events on Saturday and Sunday.

The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* believes in bringing the “**good life to the Gulf Coast**” in more ways than one. The festival will bring unique gourmet food and wine experiences to the capital of Louisiana, but more importantly will make a positive impact on the community through its involvement with the **Baton Rouge chapter of the March of Dimes**. The March of Dimes is dedicated to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. This festival’s Saturday events will coincide with the **March for Babies** (formerly WalkAmerica), raising support for the charitable cause in and around Baton Rouge.

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Bidding will begin on Saturday, and the day's highest bidder will be given complimentary tickets to return to Sunday's Walkabout Brunch to continue fighting for their prize. Proceeds from the **silent auction** will be presented to the March of Dimes at the end of Sunday's Walkabout Brunch. A representative from the March of Dimes will be on hand to accept the donation from *Southern Breeze* editor, **Mark A. Newman**, at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday.

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](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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