



Contact:
Karen Kirkland Ochoa
Director of Marketing
Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival
251.967.7538 direct • 251.968.4198 fax
kareno@compassbiz.com

RENOWNED CULINARY AND WINE EXPERTS CREATE A GOURMET AFFAIR IN BATON ROUGE

The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* visits Baton Rouge, La. featuring gourmet Wine Dinners Friday, April 4.

Baton Rouge, La. March 26, 2008— Wine will flow in Baton Rouge on April 4 at the *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival Wine Dinners*. Top chefs and winemakers from around the world will partner to create two gourmet dining experiences to kick off this year's festival in Louisiana. 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.

On Friday evening, guests can experience the ultimate pairing during one of the **Wine Dinners**. During these five-course gourmet affairs, celebrity and local chefs pair their signature cuisine with boutique wines from noted winemakers. Throughout each course, guests are educated on how each pairing brings out the distinct flavors in each dish.

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 **Michael David Winery** in Lodi, California. Creehan, owner of Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill in Destin, Fla. will add his coastal flair to the legendary creations of Loupe for a one-of-a-kind dining experience. Each delicacy will be matched with Michael David's award-winning wines, as Lambert entertains and educates guests on each sumptuous pairing.

Vic's Chophouse will be home to a second Wine Dinner in which owner, Chef **Victor Pickich**, will partner with Tabasco Executive Chef **Jason Gronlund** in the creation of a five-course unforgettable dining experience. Former racecar driver turned wine producer, **Alan Heath** of **Heath Vineyards**, will present five of his unique vintages paired with each course during an entertaining, educational epicurean experience.

"The Wine Dinners are always a favorite among guests of the festival. The chefs and winemakers featured at this year's festival in Baton Rouge 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 capital of Louisiana to celebrate food, wine, and Gulf Coast culture. The festival continues with Saturday's **Grand Wine Tasting** on the lawn of the Old Louisiana State Capitol as guests have the opportunity to sample up to 200 boutique vintage 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 Old Louisiana State Capitol, 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; 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.*

-END-