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THE SOUTHERN BREEZE WINE + CULINARY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES REGIONAL CULINARY WINNERS

The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival visited Orange Beach, Ala. May 2-4, 2008 bringing culinary competition to Alabama's Gulf Coast.

Gulf Shores, Ala. May 12, 2008— Competition was fierce at the *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival. The top chefs on Alabama's Gulf Coast gathered during the events of this three-day festival that travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with a wine dinner, chef challenge, wine tastings, seminars, and a walkabout brunch.

Chef Brody Olive of Villaggio Grille was selected as Alabama's top chef during the first annual *Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef Challenge*. The Chef Challenge kicked off Saturday's Grand Wine Tasting as seven invited chefs went head-to-head in an "Iron Chef" style competition. [Chef Tim Creehan](#) of Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill in Destin, Fla. was on hand to host the live one-hour cooking demonstration. At the end of the hour, a distinctive panel of judges selected Olive as the **Alabama Gulf Coast's Top Chef** of 2008.

Olive's involvement in the weekend wasn't limited to the Chef Challenge. He was the featured chef for Friday night's Wine Dinner at **Villaggio Grille**. Olive collaborated with Creehan, the special celebrity guest chef, to create a five-course gourmet affair, artfully paired with five distinct wines from Esterlina Vineyards. His restaurant also participated in Sunday's Walkabout Brunch. The title awarded to Olive at the *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival has been added to his collection of awards received during his culinary career. He will go on to compete against winners from Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi later this year for the title of the [Southern Breeze 2008 Gulf Coast Chef Challenge Chef of the Year](#).

On Sunday, two Gulf Coast favorites received honors for their unique culinary delicacies at the **Walkabout Brunch**. Guests to this event voted for the most outstanding brunch in the **People's Choice** competition. **Cosmo's** walked away with this title, as celebrity food judges selected **Nix** as their favorite in the **Best of Brunch** competition.

The weekend-long event brought travelers from all over the U.S. as well as locals to the shores of Alabama to celebrate food, wine, and Gulf Coast culture.

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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 Northwest 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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