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MEDIA INVITED AS BEACHES OF SOUTH WALTON'S TOP CHEFS COMPETE FOR FLORIDA TITLE

The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* presents Santa Rosa Beach's first annual *Gulf Coast Chef Challenge* Saturday, September 13.

Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. August 20, 2008— The top chefs of the Beaches of South Walton will go head-to-head Saturday during Santa Rosa Beach's first annual ***Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef Challenge***. This event, open only to the media, will feature six 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 wine dinners, 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 Gulf Coast of Florida to celebrate food, wine, and coastal culture **September 12-14, 2008**.

The ***Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef Challenge*** will kick off Saturday's festivities at **12 p.m.** This event will take place in the **DCS by Fisher & Paykel Theater** located at the Gulf Place Amphitheater. Each participant will be given a common protein 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 Florida's title include **Chef Dan Pettis**, The Boatyard; **Chef Craig McNeill**, Santa Rosa Beach Club; **Chef Javier**, Smiling Fish Café; **Chef Andi Bell**, Seering's Piano Bar; **Chef Charles Lee**, Copper Grill; and **Chef Brannon Janca**, The Lake Place.

Chef Tim Creehan of Beach Walk Crystal Beach 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 **Florida's Top Chef**. The winner will go on to compete against winners from Alabama, 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 1:30 p.m. prior to the Grand Wine Tasting Saturday afternoon. The Grand Wine Tasting, held on the scenic grounds of the Gulf Place Amphitheater, will feature a sampling of over 150 unique wines not readily available in stores in a relaxed, yet invigorating atmosphere. Wine and culinary seminars throughout the day help to heighten the Grand Wine Tasting experience as **Chef Tim Creehan** performs live cooking demonstrations paired with wines presented by **Michael Bryan**, Executive Director of Atlanta Wine

School. Most wines being poured during Saturday's event will be available for purchase and all retail wine sales are sponsored by **La Botana**.

The event in Santa Rosa Beach marks the last stop during the fifth anniversary of the **Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival**. The 2009 season begins March 6-8 in **Biloxi, Miss.**; and continues **April 3-5** in **Baton Rouge, La.**; **May 1-3** in **Orange Beach, Ala.** and once again will visit **Northwest Florida** during the fall. For more information about our events, visit www.southernbreeze.com. For press passes to the Gulf Coast Chef Challenge, 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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