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RENOWNED CULINARY AND WINE EXPERTS CREATE A GOURMET AFFAIR ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival visits Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. featuring gourmet Wine Dinners Friday, September 12.

Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. August 7, 2008— Wine will flow in Santa Rosa Beach on September 12 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 on Florida's Gulf Coast. Santa Rosa Beach will be home to the *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival **September 12-14**, 2008. Again this year, the festival teams up with industry-leading appliance manufacturer [DCS by Fisher & Paykel](#) to bring the festival to Santa Rosa Beach. This festival is an **Autumn Tides** featured event.

On Friday evening, guests can experience the ultimate pairing during one of the **Wine Dinners**. During these five-course gourmet affairs, 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.

[BeachWalk Crystal Beach](#) is honored to host one of these dinners as celebrity chef **Tim Creehan** and Sous Chef Kristen Collett create an unforgettable meal paired with wines presented by **Ottavio Ruggieri** of **Terranova Imports**. Creehan, owner of Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill in Destin, Fla. will showcase his coastal flair as he partners with Collett to create a one-of-a-kind dining experience. Each delicacy will be matched with Terranova's award-winning wines, as Ruggieri entertains and educates guests on each sumptuous pairing.

[Sunquest Cruises](#) will host a second Wine Dinner aboard the *Solaris* as Chef de Cuisine **Steve Johnson** partners with Executive Chef **Don Derrick** in the creation of a five-course unforgettable dining experience. **Jim Killam** of **Vineyard Brand Wines** will present five unique vintages paired with each course during an entertaining, educational epicurean experience.

"The Wine Dinners are always a favorite among guests of the festival," Event Producer J. Gary Ellis said. "The chefs and winemakers featured at this year's festival in Santa Rosa Beach are phenomenal and I can assure they will create an incredible experience."

This weekend-long event brings travelers from all over the U.S. as well as locals to the Beaches of South Walton to celebrate food, wine, and coastal culture. The festival continues with Saturday's **Grand Wine Tasting** at Santa Rosa Beach's Gulf Place Amphitheater as guests have the opportunity to sample up to 150 distinct 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 Gulf Place Amphitheater, where the region's best restaurants offer their signature dishes paired with champagnes and sparkling wines.

This year's festival in Santa Rosa Beach is the final stop during the fifth anniversary of the ***Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival***. The 2009 season will kick off in March as the festival make its way along the Gulf Coast with stops in **Biloxi, Mississippi; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Orange Beach, Alabama; and Santa Rosa Beach, Florida**. For more information, visit www.southernbreeze.com 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.*

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