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The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival brings the “Good Life on the Gulf Coast” to Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. September 12-14, 2008.

Gulf Shores, Ala. July 11, 2008—The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival returns to **Beaches of South Walton** during its fifth anniversary **September 12-14, 2008**. This three-day event travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with wine dinners, wine tastings, seminars, and a brunch. The weekend-long festival brings locals as well as travelers from all over the United States to the nation’s most illustrious beaches to celebrate food, wine, and coastal culture. This year, the festival teams up with industry-leading appliance manufacturer [DCS by Fisher & Paykel](#) and [Gulf Place](#) to bring the festival to Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

The *Southern Breeze* Wine + Culinary Festival at Santa Rosa’s Gulf Place Amphitheater is an [Autumn Tides](#) featured event. Autumn Tides is a season of unforgettable fall events celebrating the art, nature, culture, and cuisine of Beaches of South Walton.

The festival kicks off Friday night with the ultimate pairing at our [Wine Dinners](#) as a top regional Gulf Coast chef prepares a five-course gourmet affair carefully paired with five elegant wines from a renowned winemaker. Options include dinners presented by Chef Tim Creehan at BeachWalk Crystal Beach and Chef Ken Duenas at Café Thirty-A. A third option features the pairings of Chef de Cuisine Steve Johnson and Executive Chef Don Derrick of SunQuest Cruises with wines presented by Taylor Kase of Vineyard Wines aboard the *Solaris*.

On Saturday, local chefs go head-to-head at the ***Southern Breeze* Gulf Coast Chef Challenge**. Invited chefs will compete at the judged event for the title of Northwest Florida's top chef. The winner will go on to compete in the finals later in the year. The competition, beginning at 12:00 p.m., is a DCS VIP event open only to the media. Awards will be presented at 1:30 p.m.

Following the Challenge, wine will flow as guests sample up to 200 worldwide noted wines not readily available in stores during Saturday's **Grand Wine Tasting** from 2-6 p.m. at Gulf Place Amphitheater. Guests have the opportunity to heighten their Grand Wine Tasting experience by participating in unique cooking and wine seminars. One of the country's most celebrated chefs, Tim Creehan, will share his award-winning cooking techniques as Michael Bryan, Executive Director of the [Atlanta Wine School](#), discusses the pairing and history of wines matched with each delicacy.

The weekend is brought to a close on Sunday with the **Walkabout Brunch** from 10:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m., at the Gulf Place Amphitheater. Attendees will take pleasure in the beautiful outdoor scenery of the Beaches of South Walton while sampling specialties from local restaurants paired with champagnes and sparkling wines to complement each delicacy. Guests will also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite restaurant in the "People's Choice" culinary competition.

“We are committed to bringing the good life to the Gulf Coast. This festival is a chance for the community to showcase their talents and the richness of the area,” says **Mark A. Newman** editor of *Southern Breeze* magazine. “Come help celebrate with us.”

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 Santa Rosa Beach, 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.*

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