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MISSISSIPPI COAST HONORED FOR ITS AWARD-WINNING CUISINE

The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* presents this weekend's culinary competition winners from Biloxi.

Gulf Shores, Ala. March 10, 2008— Top cuisine on the Mississippi Gulf Coast was honored at this weekend's *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival*, presented by [DCS by Fisher & Paykel](#), in Biloxi. The weekend consisted of a Wine Dinner, Grand Wine Tasting, Chef Challenge, and Walkabout Brunch March 7-9. Ticket proceeds benefited the Gulf Coast Chapter of the [Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association](#).

Chef Jason Carlisle of LB's Harrah's Grand Biloxi was selected as the top chef on Mississippi's Gulf Coast during the first *Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef Challenge*. The Chef Challenge, co-sponsored by the **Mississippi Gulf Coast American Culinary Federation**, kicked off Saturday's Grand Wine Tasting as six invited chefs went head-to-head in an "Iron Chef" style competition. **Chef Rob Stinson** of Salute Restaurant was on hand to host the live one-hour cooking demonstration. At the end of the hour, a distinctive panel of judges selected Carlisle as the **Mississippi Gulf Coast's Top Chef** of 2008. Carlisle's award-winning dish consisted of stuffed breast of chicken with ricotta gnocchi and crab.

Originally from Wisconsin, Jason Carlisle has been a chef on the Coast since 1998, working with the freshest fish and seafood as Chef of Brulo's Seafood Company and LB's Steakhouse before Hurricane Katrina. After Katrina, Carlisle spent two years at Harrah's in Lake Tahoe at the coveted restaurant "The Summit." The title awarded to Carlisle at the *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* is the latest in a long line of awards he has received during his career. Carlisle will go on to compete against winners from Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana later this year for the title of the [Southern Breeze 2008 Gulf Coast Chef Challenge Chef of the Year](#).

Two of Biloxi's finest restaurants picked up awards on Sunday during the Walkabout Brunch. **Carnaval de Brasil** of IP Casino received the award for **Best of Brunch**, while **27th Avenue Bistro** walked away with the **People's Choice** award. Chef Calvin Coleman, President of Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association and owner of Naomi's Catering, was on hand to judge the Best of Brunch competition. Guests to Sunday's Walkabout Brunch voted for their favorite brunch delicacy in the People's Choice competition.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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 upcoming stops in **Baton Rouge, Louisiana; 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.

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