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**SAVOR THE WEEKEND ON THE ALABAMA GULF COAST WITH THE *SOUTHERN BREEZE WINE + CULINARY FESTIVAL***

**The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* visits Orange Beach, Ala. featuring wine dinners, a wine tasting, a walkabout brunch, and much more May 2-4, 2008.**

**Gulf Shores, Ala. April 9, 2008**—The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* returns to **Orange Beach** during its fifth anniversary on the Alabama Gulf Coast **May 2-4, 2008**. This three-day event travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with wine dinners, wine tastings, seminars, and a walkabout 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 A.I.G. Baker's premier development **The Wharf** to bring the festival to Orange Beach, Ala.

On Friday evening, guests can experience the ultimate pairing during the luxurious **Wine Dinner. Villaggio Grille** will host this five-course gourmet affairs, as celebrity and local chefs pair their unique cuisine with top-caliber wines from noted vineyards. **Celebrity Chef Tim Creehan** will partner with **Executive Chef Brody Olive** of Villaggio to create an unforgettable affair featuring the wines of **Esterlina Vineyards**. The first annual ***Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef Challenge*** will take place Saturday at 11:30 a.m. as local chefs compete during a one-hour cooking competition emceed by celebrity chef Tim Creehan for the title of Orange Beach's Top Chef. The winner will be announced at 1 p.m. and will go on to compete against the winning chefs from Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi for the title of the 2008 Southern Breeze Gulf Coast Chef of the Year. Saturday at the **Grand Wine Tasting** held on the scenic grounds of **The Wharf** overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, up to 200 elite wines will be available to sample. Wine seminars will be presented by **Michael Bryan**, executive director of Atlanta Wine School, and culinary seminars by **Chef Tim Creehan** give guests the opportunity to heighten the Grand Wine Tasting experience. **Sunday's Walkabout Brunch**, also held on the grounds of The Wharf, will bring 10-12 local restaurants to compete for the "Best of Brunch" award. Each dish will be paired with a sparkling wine or champagne. A sampling of participating restaurants include **Ginny Lane Bar and Grill, Gulf Coast Culinary Institute, Villaggio, Live Bait, and NiX Steaks and Oysters**.

"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."

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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 Florida**. For more information, visit [www.southernbreeze.com/winefest](http://www.southernbreeze.com/winefest) or contact Karen Kirkland Ochoa at 800-239-9880 or [kareno@compassbiz.com](mailto: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](http://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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