

## Southern Breeze Coastal Wine Tour: Aged to Perfection!

For Immediate Release

Gulf Shores, Ala.—Like the fine wines it touts, the Southern Breeze Coastal Wine Tour is getting better with age. Held in Rosemary Beach, Fla. from Oct. 20 – 22, the third annual event broke attendance records for all three days.

The Winemaker's Dinner held in the Rosemary Beach Town Hall kicked off the event on Friday night. Catering to a capacity crowd, master vintner Ted Egan from Bourassa Vineyards and Chef John Folse whose Cajun-inspired masterpieces are known around the world, kept the attendees informed and entertained all night long. Aside from the chance to taste a selection of Bourassa's rare wines—only a few hundred cases are produced each year—patrons were treated to Chef Folse's five-course masterpiece which included delicacies such as Pecan -Smoked Duck Ham with Evangeline Mousse & Candied Kumquat Relish.

The first full day of wine tastings began on Saturday at 1 p.m. A sold-out crowd strolled through Rosemary's Beach's Long Green Park tasting a variety of wines from vineyards around the world. Some of the wines available for tasting were: Gruet, Sequoia Grove, Robert Pecota, Altos de la Hoya, Giesen, Silverado, Tierra del Fuego, Windmill Estates, Krutz Family Cellars, and many, many more. Adding to the ambiance was the live music from Mark Harris and Mojo Rising.

Aside from the wine tasting, there were also free wine and cooking seminars. Michael Bryan, a renowned wine expert and Executive Director of the Atlanta Wine School, spoke about how to determine the various components of fine wine and how to tell which wines go best with which foods. And speaking of food, the always ebullient Chef Folse delighted guests with a cooking demonstration that was as fun as it was entertaining. Like the Winemaker's Dinner the night before, the cooking demonstration took place exclusively on Viking appliances.

Sunday's Gulfside Walkabout Brunch also saw record-breaking attendance by both patrons and restaurants taking part. Held on Rosemary Beach's Western Green overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, a more perfect location would be impossible to find. Much like the wine tasting, attendees walked from tent to tent sampling some of the best food on the Gulf Coast. Chef Andrew Selz served as master of ceremonies to announce the Best of Brunch awards. The Santa Rosa Golf and Beach Club won Best Presentation for its savory mascarpone and crab meat salad with marinated asparagus and avocado crème.

Best Décor went to The Boatyard Restaurant which created a lush tropical landscape for its visitors. **Rutherfords 465 in Destin** was deemed to have the **Best Food** for its creamed seafood over mini pastry bouches topped with a variety of gourmet cheeses.

The Coastal Wine Tour is presented by Southern Breeze magazine which is headquartered in Gulf Shores, Ala. with satellite bureaus throughout the South. The Coastal Wine Tour allows readers and non-readers alike to experience the very essence of what Southern Breeze offers: “the good life on the Gulf Coast.”

If you missed this event, there will be three more events throughout the Gulf Coast in 2007. On May 18 - 20, the Coastal Wine Tour returns to Orange Beach, Ala., Baton Rouge will play host June 15 – 17, and it’s back to Rosemary Beach October 19 – 21(tentative).