

MEDIA ALERT

CELEB CHEF COMING TO OPELIKA – PUBLIC EVENT OCT. 24

WHAT: Celebrity Chef Tim Creehan Coming to Opelika. Public invited to meet Creehan, tour dream kitchens at National Village and pick up culinary tips during Creehan’s holiday cooking demonstration.

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 24 at 1:00 p.m. Kitchen tours follow his presentation at 1:30.

WHERE: National Village is a luxury community on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National. National Village is located adjacent to the RTJ Grand National and the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel at Grand National.

OTHER: Creehan will arrive in Opelika on Tuesday, Oct. 21. He is available for interviews on Wednesday, Oct. 21. On Thursday evening, Creehan will be helping host a welcome reception for the Couples Classic golf event. More details on Creehan and his visit are below. The best chance for the public to meet Creehan, learn a few of his holiday culinary tips and tour designer kitchens is on Friday, Oct. 24.

MEDIA CONTACT: To arrange interviews with Chef Tim Creehan or for photographs, contact Bill Lang at 205.965-9574 or bill.lang@pchresorts.com. For more information on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National, visit www.rtgolf.com

CELEBRITY CHEF AND TV HOST TIM CREEHAN COMING TO OPELIKA

Chef to Entertain Couples Classic Players and Locals at National Village Community

Take one celebrity chef. Add one part golf and one part cuisine in a new luxury community and a tour of dream kitchens. Mix and serve to guests from around the county and you have the recipe for a great week in Opelika.

This October, celebrity chef Tim Creehan will be teaming up with the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and National Village, a brand new resort community on the Trail in Opelika, to celebrate the Couples Classic and showcase the new upscale homes at National Village.

The renowned chef will be performing a cooking demonstration on Friday, Oct. 24 at 1:00 p.m. The free event will showcase his culinary skills, give holiday entertaining ideas and be followed by a tour of dream kitchens. Each of these luxury homes at National Village is equipped with cooking appliances from DCS by Fisher & Paykel. Chef Tim Creehan has served as the chief spokesman for the company since 2005.

Creehan, who was recognized as one of five “Shining Star Chefs” by *Cooking Light*, owns and operates several restaurants in Florida, including *Tim Creehan’s Beach Walk Crystal Beach*. The

restaurant received the prestigious DiRoNA Award (Distinguished Restaurants of North America) and was recognized by *Florida Trend's Golden Spoon* as one of the Top 25 Restaurants in Florida.

He recently prepared his gourmet stylings for the star-studded 2008 Sundance Film Festival, where dozens of celebrities enjoyed his delicious recipes. Some of those that attended include actors Tom Arnold, Jack Black, Matthew Broderick, Danny Glover and George Lopez, television star Mischa Barton and R&B phenom John Legend.

The celebrated chef has also been requested to cook for countless celebrities, including country music stars Amy Grant and Vince Gill, Dallas Cowboy owner Jerry Jones, M*A*S*H actor Wayne Rogers and Hollywood superstar Bruce Willis.

National Village at Grand National

National Village, a planned 700-acre resort community adjoining the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National near Auburn and Opelika, Alabama, opened earlier this year. Further plans call for a series of villages surrounded by open, green spaces, including the Grand National golf facility and Lake Saughatchee.

A partnership between the Retirement Systems of Alabama and Conner Brothers Construction Company, the community skirts the 1500-acre, 54-hole golf facility. The late golf legend Robert Trent Jones Sr., who designed the Trail, called the Grand National facility the single greatest site for golf in the world. Plans for future amenities include walking and biking trails, Village Center with retail, marina, observation pier, feature pool and trophy fishing lakes. For more information contact National Village Realty at 334.821.1878.

Tim Creehan

As the owner of two Destin restaurants, Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill, and Destin's New Culinary Center, Creehan's Great Events Center, sponsored by DCS by Fisher & Paykel, Chef Tim Creehan is living the dream. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, and spending most of his childhood and young adult life in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Tim discovered his calling at a very young age. He possesses a zest for life, extraordinary talent, an enormous joy in sharing his love for cooking with others and a commitment to giving back. At 41, he is a Certified Executive Chef, author, teacher, inventor, dynamic entertainer and a steward of his community. Chef Creehan's impressive career in the culinary arts began in Baton Rouge when he was only 14 years old. Two years later, he served as Executive Chef at Joey's. Studying under Executive Chef Philippe Parola, he progressed to the position of Executive Chef at Lafitte's Landing in Donaldsonville, Louisiana at the ripe age of 19.

In 1992, The American Culinary Foundation named Chef Creehan as one of the "youngest and most accomplished Certified Executive Chefs in the United States." In 1999, *Cooking Light's* Grandstand '99 selected Creehan as "one of five chefs in the United States to be honored as a Shining Star Chef." In early 2004, Creehan was selected as one of five "Celebrated Chefs" to represent the National Pork Council at various events nationwide. In 2005, Creehan partnered with DCS by Fisher & Paykel to act as their chef spokesman.

Prior to opening Destin's Beach Walk Crystal Beach restaurant in 1998, Creehan served as Executive Chef and founding partner of Destin's award-winning Marina Café for ten years. In May 2007, Creehan reopened Creehan's Copper Grill.

Tim Creehan Accolades and Awards Include:

- 2007 Best Chef, Best Service, Best Dessert, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 2007 Top 25 Restaurants in Florida, Golden Spoon Award Winner, *Florida Trend Magazine*
- 2007 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, *Wine Spectator Magazine*
- 2006 Best Chef, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 2006 Top 25 Restaurants in Florida, Golden Spoon Award Winner, *Florida Trend Magazine*
- 2005 "Restaurant of the Year," *Northwest Florida Daily News*
- 2005 Best Chef and Best Brunch, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 2005 Top 25 Restaurants in Florida, Golden Spoon Award Winner, *Florida Trend Magazine*
- 2005 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, *Wine Spectator Magazine*
- 2004 Best Chef and Best Fine Dining, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 2004 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, *Wine Spectator Magazine*
- 2004 Celebrated Chef, National Pork Council
- 2003 Top 25 Restaurants in Florida, Golden Spoon Award Winner, *Florida Trend Magazine*
- 2003 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, *Wine Spectator Magazine*
- 2003 Best Chef and Best Service, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 2002 One of Florida's Emerging Culinary Talents, *Bon Appetit Magazine*
- 2002 Best Chef, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 2002 Top 250 Restaurant, *Florida Trend Magazine*
- 2001 Top 200 Restaurant, *Florida Trend Magazine*
- 2000 Best Appetizer, *Emerald Coast Magazine*
- 1999 Shining Star Chef, *Cooking Light Magazine*

He has written two cookbooks: *Flavors of the Gulf Coast* and *Simple Cuisine*. Creehan has been featured on dozens of "On the Menu" cooking shows throughout the Southeast and in early 2007 was named Host on Beach TV's *Emerald Coast Chefs in Florida*. Recently, The Tourist Network, producers of Beach TV, teamed with their sponsor DCS by Fisher and Paykel to create a new Chef Show series that launched in December 2007. The 30 minute television programs highlight the culinary talents of each area's most popular local chefs and is hosted by Creehan.

In addition to performing live demos, his award-winning recipes have been featured on Emeril Lagasse's TV show and in publications such as *Restaurant Business*, *Florida Living*, *Country Weekly*, *Cooking Light* and *Bon Appetit*.

Celebrities such as Cybill Shepherd, Timothy Hutton, Katherine Crosby and Debra Winger have invited him to serve as their personal chef. In March 2000, Creehan was called upon to serve as the Chef de Cuisine at the wedding reception of Amy Grant and Vince Gill. Tim Creehan lives in Destin, Florida.

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