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#### Creehan opening Cuvee Bistro at Cuvee Beach

Chef Tim Creehan is expanding again with the acquisition of the former Cuvee Beach restaurant. Slated to open May 1 as Cuvee Bistro, the location is currently getting a new facelift inside and out. Partnering with Creehan in the acquisition are Tim and Pam Wellborn of Alexander City, Ala., and Destin, who are owners and operators of Wellborn Forest cabinet company in Alexander City.

"I thought it was a good opportunity," said Creehan. "It became an attractive deal with the real estate market being soft right now."

Creehan - who has been called the chef to the stars - also heads The Beachwalk at Henderson Beach, a fine dining restaurant. He also caters and teaches from his events center on U.S. Highway 98W in Miramar Beach.

Creehan said the public can expect to find great food at bistro prices at the new location, ordered from a classic bistro menu. He said he envisions pasta dishes and roasted chicken, along with classic French onion soup, oysters, pizza, and small plates at the bar. Creehan also plans for some of his signature dishes to be available, such as seared tuna, venison, eggplant with crab meat, spring rolls, hot crawfish salad, Grouper Vince, smoked tomato soup and banana cream pie. The restaurant will have a full bar featuring a martini menu and wines from all over the world.

Cuvée Beach first opened in 2000 and was known for its extensive wine cellar. Through the years the restaurant won accolades such as Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence, and Florida Trend tapped it as one of the 400 best places to dine.

In 2008, the owners put the restaurant and all its contents up for auction. Joseph Marcello and his partner S. Joseph Segreto bought it for \$1.575 million. It was put on the market again after the summer of 2009. The reported asking price this go around was \$2.1 million furnished.

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