

Southern Breeze Festival begins today

SANTA ROSA BEACH — The Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival celebrates its fifth anniversary along the Beaches of South Walton this weekend with wine dinners, wine tastings, seminars, and a brunch.

Tickets are still available to the festival, named one of the top food and wine events by forbestraveler.com.

The festival kicks off tonight as a top regional Gulf Coast chef prepares a five-course gourmet affair paired with five elegant wines from a renowned winemaker.

Options include dinners presented by Executive Chef Tim Creehan and Sous Chef Kristin Collett at Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Chef de

Cuisine Steve Johnson and Executive Chef Don Derrick of SunQuest Cruises aboard the Solaris.

On Saturday, wine will flow as guests sample more than 100 worldwide noted wines not readily available in stores during the Grand Wine Tasting 2-6 p.m. at Gulf Place Amphitheater.

The weekend ends Sunday with the Walkabout Brunch 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Gulf Place Amphitheater. Attendees will sample specialties from local restaurants paired with champagnes and sparkling wines.

For tickets, visit southernbreeze.com or call Karen Kirkland Ochoa at 800-239-9880.