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New Awards in the New Year for DiRoNA's Tim Creehan

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Creehan Chosen as Chairman for DiRoNA

(Destin, Florida) Executive Chef and entrepreneur, Tim Creehan, will lend his culinary expertise and dedication to inspiring the public to indulge in the art of fine dining by serving as Chairman of the Board for the prestigious organization DiRoNA (Distinguished Restaurants of North America) in 2006.

Creehan replaces John Folsie as Chairman of the non-profit organization that independently and anonymously dines at restaurants and rates them based on a 75-point inspection. "People in the industry are already aware of the prestige of being recognized by DiRoNA. We want to make the award more recognizable to the public," explained Creehan.

In order for DiRoNA to even consider a restaurant for an award it has to show a commitment to serving only the highest quality food, demonstrating above expectation service, offering a superior wine list, and creating an inspired ambiance.

"It's really becoming 'The Award' in our industry."

By making the public more aware of the strict criteria a restaurant must pass in order to be recognized by DiRoNA, Creehan knows people will be getting options where they can go to experience dining the way Europeans have viewed it for hundreds of years – as an experience in itself.

Beach Walk Awarded for Excellence Once Again

Creehan himself has been serving the public a dining experience for the last seven years.

He opened the highly acclaimed and awarded restaurant, Beach Walk, in Destin in 1998, which was named among the list of the Top 25 Restaurants in Florida by *Florida Trend* Magazine, has been recognized by *Wine Spectator* Magazine with its Excellence Award several times, and has consistently been recognized as one of Florida's top restaurants by publications such as *Emerald Coast*.

Most recently, in December 2005, The Beach Walk was named Destin's 'Restaurant of the Year' by *NWF (Northwest Florida) Daily News*.

“I had worked as a Chef for two years, but it wasn’t until I was 17 years old and I dined at La Provence (A DiRoNA recognized restaurant) in Louisiana that ‘I got it.’ I experienced ‘it,’” he said. ‘It,’ as he defined, is the savory experience of dining in an atmosphere where eating is viewed as an art, as a production, and as entertainment.

Twenty years after being inspired himself, Creehan remains committed to satisfy diners in his own restaurants and in their own homes every day.

The author of two popular cookbooks on the market- *Flavors of the Gulf Coast* and *Simple Cuisine*, the innovative producer of *Chef’s Grill Plus* line of marinades, and the Executive Chef at the Beach Walk, he will soon appear on a reality-based lifestyle cooking show sponsored by Dynamic Cooking Systems.

Amy Grant, recording artist and the star of her own current, popular reality television show, *Three Wishes*, commissioned Creehan to serve as *Chef de Cuisine* at her and Vince Gill’s wedding. Wrote Grant: “Thank you for the amazing table that you spread for Vince and I and our family and friends at our wedding reception. You have quite a gift. Thank you for sharing it with us.”

Even on a rare day off from his busy schedule, Creehan said he would rather be sharing his culinary gift with friends than being a guest, and that despite over 20 years in the industry, cooking never seems a chore to him.

“It’s always been my dream to serve the public not only fine food but a memorable dining experience.”

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