



**SOUTH WALTON BEACHES
WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CELEBRITY WINEMAKERS AND SEMINARS ANNOUNCED FOR SOUTH
WALTON BEACHES WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

Taste more than 800 wines, enjoy Rosé All Day, redesigned Culinary Village

Miramar Beach, Florida (Jan. 16, 2019) – The first round of featured winemakers and distillers has been announced for the 2019 [South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival](#), taking place April 25 – 28 in Grand Boulevard’s Town Center. The festival is known for attracting top winemakers and master distillers from around the world and festival attendees can meet these renowned winemakers and industry experts to discuss their wines and spirits, while tasting them.

The festival once again has winemakers representing wineries from the globe’s most notable wine regions. Wines from the Oregon Wine Country will be featured at the 2019 festival in the newly redesigned Culinary Village. Leading the line-up are Erik Kramer, the winemaker from Willakenzie Estates and Eugenia Keegan with Gran Moraine, among the finest wineries in Oregon. Jackson Family Wines will be showcased, making this a stunning presentation of the best Oregon has to offer.

“We strive to bring a fresh and inviting experience to wine lovers each year. In addition to featuring exciting wines from Oregon and other notable wine regions, this year we are revamping two of our most popular areas - our tasting seminars and our culinary village,” said Stacey Brady, festival executive director.

With more than 40 years in the world of winemaking, Eugenia Keegan, General Manager of Gran Moraine, is a renown winemaking consultant. In a special seminar, Keegan will lead a panel discussion featuring Oregon winemakers, including Erik Kramer of Willakenzie. “The Origin and Evolution of Oregon Wines” explores the ever-changing landscape of some of the most impressive wines in the world. From the fascinating history of Oregon terroir and viticulture to the science behind the winemaking, guests will enjoy learning and tasting the Oregon Wine Country.

One of the most influential operatives in the history of whisky-making will make a rare appearance at South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival this year. The venerable Bill Samuels, Jr. of Maker's Mark will present his premium whisky and conduct a once in a lifetime seminar. At "From Kentucky Whisky Pioneers to Iconic Industry Transformers – the Maker's Mark Way" Samuels will tell the story of how Maker's Mark began with one family's quest to create a bourbon they enjoyed drinking and sharing with friends and how, in 1953, it changed an industry. Samuels turned his parents' little company into an icon and helped create a more flavorful version of their bourbon. Along the way, he rewrote the rules of marketing and set Kentucky's bourbon industry on a path to growth and success. Enjoy the journey, the stories and the delicious whisky of this visionary Whisky Hall of Famer.

In a repeat of last year's standing-room only seminar, world-renown cheese expert and educator Michael Landis of Institut du Fromage presents "The Perfect Pair(ing)." Enjoy tantalizing pairings of award-winning cheeses, meats and more to perfectly pair with wine. As the Director of Education for the Institut du Fromage, Landis has been teaching food and beverage pairings for more than 20 years. He is an American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional and authorized Educator, Court of Master Sommelier, certified Cicerone beer server and was inducted into the International Guilde des Fromages in 2011. Enjoy selected wines poured to compliment the cheeses and meats.

Besides a redesigned Culinary Village and a new Tasting Seminar tent, back by popular demand is the Rosé All-Day walk-about, where Rosés from around the world can be tasted and compared. The walk-about is presented by ResortQuest by Wyndham Vacation Rentals and is an all-pink salute, featuring photo-worthy backdrops and pink swag throughout.

Tickets are now on sale now. To purchase tickets, please visit www.SoWalWine.com.

Presented by Wine Enthusiast Media, [Grand Boulevard at Sandestin](#) and Visit South Walton, the festival offers the ideal backdrop for a beach getaway. The Festival is made possible by the generous support of the following Founding Partners: Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, Visit South Walton Tourist Development Council, Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association and VISIT FLORIDA, Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, Wine World of Northwest Florida and Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. ResortQuest by Wyndham Vacation Rentals is the official lodging partner of the festival.

About South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival

This year's annual South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival will be held April 25-28, 2019 throughout the Town Center of Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. The festival features a stunning showcase of the best wines in the world. Meet the celebrity wine producers and master distillers presenting their fine wine and spirits from around the world. The Savor South Walton Culinary Village offers a sumptuous array of foods to taste, wines to pair, as well as wine and food tasting seminars. Visit the Rosé All Day walk-about, Spirits Row and Nosh Pavilions and enjoy live entertainment throughout the weekend. The Craft Beer & Spirits Jam and Winemakers & Shakers events round out the

extended festival weekend. The event is a major fundraiser for [Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation](#), which benefits children in need in Northwest Florida. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.SoWalWine.com.

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