



## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wharf Uncorked Food & Wine Festival Set for September 13-15**

**ORANGE BEACH, Ala. (May 30, 2018)** – Event organizers today announced official dates for The Wharf Uncorked Food & Wine Festival presented by Rouses Markets, set to take place Thursday, Sept. 13 through Saturday, Sept. 15. Tickets for the culinary event will go on sale this Friday, June 1 with discounted pricing until July 5.

The festival – bringing together local and celebrity talent alike – will feature more than 100 labels of wine, chef demonstrations, book signings by James Briscione and Brooke Parkhurst, a luxury yacht walk and auctions benefitting Make-A-Wish® Alabama.

“We are thrilled to bring the festival to the Gulf Coast for its 5<sup>th</sup> year as a way to showcase culinary excellence and support a special cause,” said Sheena Mizell, marketing manager at The Wharf. “Year over year, we are blown away by the support and welcome all wine and food enthusiasts to join us for the three-day celebration.”

Event details for each day’s highlights are included below.

### **Thursday, Sept. 13**

#### ***VIP Kickoff + Chef Showdown***

#### **The Port, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Presented by Good Grit Magazine, the night will kick off with high-end wine tastings and small bites, an open bar with a signature cocktail by John Emerald Distillery, a live auction and wine pull.

Guests will have a front-row view as Chef Chris Kelly returns to defend his title against three local chefs in a heated battle emceed by Atlanta chef and restaurateur Ford Fry and Good Grit Magazine founder Laura Bento. The chef with the best Alabama Gulf Seafood dish will take home the winning title along with bragging rights.

Early bird tickets for the VIP Kickoff + Chef Showdown are \$35. Regular pricing begins July 6 at \$40 and last minute pricing is \$45 starting Aug. 31.

**Friday, Sept. 14*****Local Wine Dinners***

The Wharf is home to more than 10 unique restaurants with a variety of fare. Several on-property venues along with others on the Gulf Coast will offer curated menus with signature wine pairings. Guests can make reservations directly through the restaurant of their choice. A full list of participating restaurants will be released at [www.thewharfuncorked.com](http://www.thewharfuncorked.com).

**Saturday, Sept. 15*****Grand Tasting presented by Rouses Markets*****Main Street and Wharf Parkway, 4 – 7:30 p.m.**

The Wharf Entertainment District will be lined with vendors offering wine, beer and spirit tastings and small bites from more than 12 local restaurants competing in the culinary completion. Chef and mixology demonstrations will take place throughout the event at the Rouses Markets Culinary Experience Stage. Guests will have the opportunity to cast a vote for their favorite dish for the People's Choice Award, which will be presented at the end of the night with a ceremony of awards.

Early bird tickets for the Grand Tasting are \$50. Regular pricing begins July 6 at \$60 and last minute pricing is \$70 starting Aug. 31.

"This is our third year sponsoring Wharf Uncorked, and all of the food for the Culinary Experience Stage and the Chef Showdown will come from our new Rouses Market in Orange Beach," said Donny Rouse, CEO of Rouses Market. "My great grandfather emigrated from Sardinia making this year's Italian theme a perfect fit."

The chefs will be using the new line of authentic Italian-made products from Rouses Markets with recipes dating back hundreds – even thousands – of years.

"We went to the source for our private label. Italians, after all, are as passionate about their food culture as we are here on the Gulf Coast," said Rouse.

Combination tickets for the VIP Kick Off + Chef Showdown and the Grand Tasting are available at early bird cost for \$70. Regular pricing begins July 6 at \$85 and last minute pricing is \$100 beginning Aug. 31.

Tickets are available online through Ticketmaster.com or at The Wharf box office. For more information, please visit [TheWharfUncorked.com](http://TheWharfUncorked.com).

**About The Wharf**

Located in beautiful Orange Beach, The Wharf is the Gulf Coast's premier destination resort and Marina. The Wharf features a unique selection of shopping, dining and entertainment options, including restaurants, boutiques and stores, a 15-screen movie theater, 112 foot tall Ferris wheel, and live music at The Wharf's 9,600 seat Amphitheater. No matter the time of year, The Wharf is the ultimate family-friendly vacation destination. For more information visit [alwharf.com](http://alwharf.com).

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