



Discover the Flavors of Sarasota During the Third Annual "Savor Sarasota" Restaurant Week, May 27-June 8, 2008

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New "Forks & Corks" Culinary Festival to Cap Off Restaurant Week With Wine Tastings, Cooking Demonstrations and a Grand Festival Celebration

SARASOTA, Fla. (Feb. 13, 2008) -- The Sarasota Convention and Visitor's Bureau (SCVB) announces the third annual "Savor Sarasota" Restaurant Week, now extended to run nearly two full weeks, from May 27-June 8, 2008, culminating in the new "Forks & Corks" culinary festival as the grand finale. This 13-day dining event will showcase Sarasota's chefs and the eateries which have helped the city earn the distinction of having one of the highest concentrations of Zagat-rated restaurants in Florida.

The SCVB is continuing the tradition of holding the "Savor Sarasota" dining promotion to encourage both visitors and locals alike to experience Sarasota's numerous and varied restaurants and to create more public awareness of the region's award-winning restaurant scene. The event has become one of the most popular culinary events in the state over the past three years, as it encourages food and wine lovers to visit Sarasota to imbibe in the best of the region's restaurants.

The SCVB has currently recruited over 30 restaurants, many of which have earned Zagat ratings, to participate in the third year of the event, during which patrons will be able to enjoy multi-course meals at participating restaurants for \$15 per person for lunch and \$25 per person for dinner.

"Sarasota is recognized nationally for our beaches, culture and circus heritage," said Virginia Haley, President of the SCVB. "Savor Sarasota" opens our visitors to the creative cuisine our talented chefs prepare, and we are so pleased that so many of our wonderful restaurants have chosen to participate for the third year in a row."

Sarasota Restaurants Look Forward to Another Successful Restaurant Week

SARASOTA

—AND HER ISLANDS—

Restaurants taking part in the third annual “Savor Sarasota” restaurant week include: Michael’s On East, with its classic supper-club aura and menu that blends European, Asian, and Latin influences with American classics; and Hyatt Boathouse, Sarasota’s landmark waterfront restaurant for 29 years that offers fresh seafood and regional American cuisine. Additional participants for 2008 include Vernona Restaurant at the Ritz-Carlton, featuring an all-organic menu; Selva Grill with its Peruvian flair; and Derek’s Culinary Casual, offering a daring menu of original flavors.

Michael Klauber, owner of trendy near-downtown Sarasota eatery Michael’s On East, is looking forward to another successful event again this year, especially as 2008 will play host to the first “Forks & Corks” Food and Wine Festival, sponsored by the Sarasota-Manatee Originals, of which Klauber is president.

"Michael's On East was on board for “Savor Sarasota” from the start, as we believe it is important for all local restaurants to unite for this wonderful occasion," said Klauber. We are especially excited this year, as the event will culminate with the new “Forks & Corks” festival, which will showcase the diverse cuisine from the independent restaurants in Sarasota and Manatee Counties, and will offer a grand finale for the larger celebration of the region’s restaurant scene."

“Forks & Corks” will be held June 5-8, 2008, and will offer interactive tastings and seminars, vintner dinners, cocktail competitions and a grand festival celebration with live music, children’s activities and a charity auction. A portion of proceeds from the “Forks & Corks” event will benefit Meals On Wheels in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

For a complete list of participating restaurants, events, accommodation packages and contact information, please visit www.savorsarasota.org. For more information on “Forks & Corks,” please visit FreshOriginals.com.

Sarasota and her string of eight islands are located along Southwest Florida’s Gulf Coast between Tampa and Ft. Myers. Sarasota and Her Islands is comprised of Sarasota, Longboat Key, Lido Key, St. Armands Key, Manasota Key, Siesta Key, Casey Key, Englewood, Nokomis, North Port, Osprey and Venice. In addition to sandy beaches, Sarasota and Her Islands also offer numerous cultural and ecological attractions. For more information on saving and discovering in Sarasota, call the Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 522-9799 or visit www.sarasotafl.org.

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