

Festival offers treats for the palate

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KAPALUA – For the past 26 years, hundreds of avid food and wine connoisseurs have gathered at Kapalua Resort to enjoy the prestigious Kapalua Wine & Food Festival, one of the longest-running events of its kind in Hawaii.

This year's 27th annual event, "Savor the Magic of Maui," will be hosted by Master Sommelier Fred Dame.

Set for June 26-29, 2008, the festival will feature dynamic wine seminars and tastings, culinary demonstrations and gala events.

The Kapalua Wine & Food Festival presents a unique opportunity for attendees to celebrate fine wine and food with world-renowned winemakers, top master sommeliers, celebrated chefs and industry insiders.

Four-day festival passes and ala carte tickets are available online at www.kapalua.com. For more information, call 665-9160.

Festival highlights include "In the Kitchen with Celebrity Chef Pano Karatassos" on Friday, June 27. Karatassos, the nation's Greek culinary phenom and Atlanta's most celebrated young talent, will demonstrate his passion for food to 25 privileged attendees from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Guests will savor Karatassos' award-winning cuisine and premier wine selections from Greece. Ala carte tickets (available only) are \$200 per person.

"The Grand Tasting" on Friday, June 27, will feature more than 100 distinguished wines from around the world, as well as divine, Mediterranean-inspired cuisine presented by The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua's culinary team led by Executive Chef John Zaner. Six nationally acclaimed master sommeliers, including Robert Bigelow from Bellagio Resort & Casino and Larry Stone from Rubicon Estate, will discuss their featured "Master Sommelier's Choice" wines and offer insight into wine selections. Set for 6 to 9 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua's Beach House Lawn, this event is included in the four-day pass. Ala carte tickets are available for \$145 per person.

Fred Dame's Rare Wines Dinner is slated for Saturday, June 28, from 6 to 9 p.m. Hosted by Dame, this exclusive charity dinner will feature rare wines of the Guild of Sommeliers and the highly prized cuisine of Karatassos. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Guild of Sommeliers Education Foundation. Available only ala carte, tickets are \$450 per person.

The Kapalua Seafood Festival will be held Sunday, June 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua's Aloha Garden Pavilion. A feast for all senses! Dame and Maui's top chefs will present an exquisite culinary display of gourmet wine and food. This event is included in the four-day pass; ala carte tickets are available for \$145 per person.

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