



Contact: Travis Currie  
(850) 622-7807  
[travis@visitsouthwalton.com](mailto:travis@visitsouthwalton.com)

### **What's New in South Walton for 2013**

*Northwest Florida Coastal Destination Reveals New Attractions for Visitors*

**SOUTH WALTON, Fla. (December 27, 2012)** – [South Walton](#), a collection of 16 beach neighborhoods along Northwest Florida's coast, is a timeless destination where families return year after year to relive cherished vacation memories and find their perfect beach.

"We take great pride in offering our visitors such unique experiences each year in South Walton," said Dawn Moliterno, executive director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council. "This year is no exception as we have several new events and attractions that our repeat guests will enjoy, as well as past favorites."

It does not matter if you are staying in Gulf Place, Miramar Beach, Seacrest or one of South Walton's other distinct neighborhoods, there are many new cultural activities, entertaining venues and unique experiences awaiting guests in 2013, including:

#### **New Acclaim**

- Visitors to the South Walton beach neighborhood of Seaside can now say they have visited the best beach in the world for families. Readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine have named Seaside the number one family beach, ranking above popular beaches in the Caribbean and beyond.
- [Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort](#) has been named the "Best of Weddings" for 2013 by *The Knot*. Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort is noted by brides throughout Florida and beyond for its scenic views from the beach to the bay, excellent value, unique guest experiences, culinary expertise and much more.

## New Arts & Culture Offerings

- South Walton will be featured on celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse's upcoming Cooking Channel TV series "[Emeril's Florida](#)". In an episode airing in early 2013, Chef Emeril travels to South Walton's acclaimed beaches to experience the local cuisine, learn a few new recipes and enjoy the area's beautiful turquoise waters.
- The annual [ArtsQuest Fine Arts and Music Festival](#) celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year during Mother's Day weekend in 2013. Previously held in Seaside, this year's anniversary event will be held in WaterColor and will feature more than 130 international artists, live music, fun arts and crafts for kids, art demos and more.
- Each year, the South Walton Tourist Development Council selects an artist in residence to represent the destination and its thriving arts community. The [2013 Artist of the Year](#), folk artist Andy Saczynski, uses recycled materials in his artwork to capture the true beauty of the destination and its spirit of preservation. These materials range from pieces of wood and branches to recycled instruments such as guitars and pianos.
- A new state-of-the-art movie theater is scheduled to open next spring at [Grand Boulevard](#) in Sandestin. Carmike Cinemas' Boulevard 10 will feature 10 screens, 1,800 seats and two special auditoriums: BIGD, which boasts a 60-foot-wide, three-story screen, and Ovation Club, an intimate 60-person theater that will offer a full menu, beer and wine.

## Exquisite Dining

- *Florida Trend* has recognized six South Walton restaurants with its prestigious Golden Spoon Award, an annual listing of the best places to dine in Florida. [Vin'tij](#), [Bud & Alley's](#), [Fish Out of Water](#) and [Restaurant Fire](#) were recognized among the best restaurants in the Northwest Florida region. The new [V Seagrove](#) received an award as one of Florida's Best New Restaurants

and [Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar](#), with a location at Grand Boulevard in Sandestin, was recognized with the publication's Best Brand award.

- Inspired by French bakeries, the new [Chanticleer Bakery & Eatery](#) in Grayton Beach is delighting guests with delectable pastries, freshly baked breads and a lunch menu offering wholesome sandwiches and classic salads.

### **Premiere Shopping**

- Silver Sands Factory Stores, located in Miramar Beach, has now become [Silver Sands Premium Outlets](#). The 460,000-square-foot center celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and boasts more than 100 designer and name brand apparel stores, shops and restaurants.
- [YOLO Board + Beach](#) held its grand opening in fall 2012. Located in Miramar Beach, the 11,000-square-foot location houses YOLO boards, paddles and other industry gear. The property features a product demo and training lake for paddling, as well as an open-air fitness studio space for classes.

### **Festive Events & New Experiences**

- The [30A Wine Festival](#) will be held March 9-10, 2013. This intimate, two-day event hosted among the elegant surroundings of Alys Beach includes wine tastings and seminars, a symposium, dance party and Sunday brunch with champagne. The presenters involved are among the country's most celebrated wine professionals. This is the first year the event will be hosted by Visit South Walton as one of the destination's signature events.
- Continuing on 26 years of success, the [South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival](#) continues to celebrate incredible wines and food. Kicking off a new venue this year, Grand Boulevard will host over 800 world-class wines April 25-28, 2013. Meet the top wine makers in the world and discover your new favorite varietal.

- South Walton visitors can now enjoy a new cruise experience on the [SunVenture I](#) from [Sunguest Cruises](#). Docked at The Village of Baytowne Wharf, the 45-foot SunVenture I Catamaran takes guests on a variety of adventurous activities, with normal cruise schedules resuming in March 2013.

For more information about South Walton, please visit [www.VisitSouthWalton.com](http://www.VisitSouthWalton.com) or contact the Visitor's Center at (800) 822-6877.

### **About South Walton**

Located along a 26-mile stretch of Northwest Florida's Coast, South Walton encompasses an unparalleled strand of 16 distinct beach neighborhoods, each with its own traditions, charm and visual style. South Walton is renowned for natural scenic beauty, turquoise waters and sugar sand beaches, including *Travel + Leisure* magazine's best beach for families in 2013. An upscale, yet casual, place to unwind, rejuvenate and build lasting memories, it is here that visitors find their perfect beach. Learn more at [VisitSouthWalton.com](http://VisitSouthWalton.com).

###