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'South Beach Food & Wine Festival' comes to Broward

Get ready for one of the most prestigious gourmet gatherings in the country.

The 16th annual "Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival" will take place Feb. 22-26. Along with the dozens of events taking place in Miami, the festival will work its way into Broward County with its "Taste Fort Lauderdale Series."

"With an array of dinners, tastings, seminars and parties showcasing a variety of cuisines, wines and spirits from around the world, guests will find plenty of ways to satiate their taste buds at this year's festival," said Lee Brian Schrage, festival founder and director.

Enjoy a star-studded lineup that begins with "Seaside Fats" hosted by Anne Burrell. The event takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22 at Bonnet House Museum & Gardens.

The series continues with the festival's first late-night party in the area, "DRINK Fort Lauderdale." The event will take over the popular FATVillage on Friday, Feb. 24.

Closing out the series will be the return of "Bloody Mary Brunch" with new hosts David Burika and Neil Patrick Harris. The event will kick off at noon Sunday, Feb. 26, at The Ritz Carlton, Fort Lauderdale.

Rounding out the Fort Lauderdale series will be intimate dinner experiences hosted by Amanda Freitag and Angelo Elias; Marc Murphy and Chris Miracolo; Valerie Bertinelli, Daphne Oz, Tiffani Thiessen and Geoffrey Zakarian; and Ashley Christensen, Vivian Howard, Andrea Reusing, Garin Pera and Ryan Cross.

The "South Beach Wine & Food Festival" has raised more than \$24 million to date for the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University.

For the full schedule of events, or to purchase tickets, visit www.sbfest.com.

PHOTOS BY KARA STARZYK



Brian Cantrell, left, Lee Schrage and Angelo Elias



"Taste Fort Lauderdale" series, part of "South Beach Wine & Food Festival," takes place Feb. 22 to Feb. 26.



Paula DaSilva and Toby Joseph



William Rivas, left, Doug McCraw, Leah Brown and Gabe Urrutia



Adrienne Grenier, left, Derek Powers and Chris Miracolo



Fabien Gremmli, left, and Garin Pera