

# Coastal Uncorked

*'Wine Around Myrtle Beach' to feature wine tastings and more*

BY ASHLEY BRUNO  
THE HERALD

Coastal Uncorked, the area's premier food and wine festival, will be celebrating its inaugural season May 16-23 in and around Myrtle Beach.

Representatives from the festival were on hand Monday for a news conference at the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce to make the big announcement.

The week will kick off with area restaurants showcasing their cuisine with a special \$20 tasting menu.

All local restaurants are invited to participate.

During "Wine Around Myrtle Beach," each day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. a trolley will transport festival guests around the Myrtle Beach area to selected locations for wine tastings, beer tastings, cooking demonstrations, live music and wine dinners.

Live entertainment will be available all day at The Market Common on May 21 and May 22 as well as grilling demonstrations and tastings from local chefs.

Outdoor party decorating ideas will be presented and wine and beer tastings will also be available.

The Coastal Uncorked Golf Tournament, which will take place at Pine Lakes Country Club, will feature local chefs and wine representatives who will setup a station at each hole for tastings.

Entry into the tournament is \$150 per person.

The week will then wrap up on May 23 with the Coastal Uncorked Food Fight Chef Competition and Gala at 6 p.m., where local chefs will compete in a live "Iron Chef"-style cooking com-



Announcing the Coastal Uncorked food and wine festival are, from left, Heidi Vukov, Ryan Swaim and Neyle Wilson. The week-long event will be held in May and feature food and wine from various Myrtle Beach area restaurants.

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petition.

Culinary, beer and wine stations from Myrtle Beach area restaurants will be available for guests to enjoy.

A variety of other events will also take place during the eight-day festival, including a poster competition, children's culinary events, live music and a cake competition.

"We are thrilled to launch the inaugural Coastal Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, a true celebration of coastal cuisine," said Heidi Vukov, owner of Croissants Bistro and Bakery, a sponsor of the event.

"The Myrtle Beach area is the perfect location for an event of this magnitude and we look for-

ward to a successful festival in May," Vukov said.

Ryan Swaim, chairman of marketing for the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, said the event will have broad appeal.

"Research shows the same thing — people will travel to a food and wine festival and it will involve the entire area," Swaim said. "It is going to be a great opportunity for everyone to be involved, and there is such a diverse array of true fine dining establishments to introduce to the area."

Most proceeds raised from this event will be donated to two local hospitality programs, the Horry-Georgetown Technical

College Culinary School and the Clay Brittain Hospitality Program at Coastal Carolina University.

Some money will also be used to market future Coastal Uncorked events.

HGTC President Neyle Wilson said the college's enrollment is now at an all-time high, with 85 percent being locals.

"We are glad that the money is going back into our area and it is very much appreciated," Wilson said.

For more information on Coastal Uncorked, visit its Web site at [coastaluncorked.com](http://coastaluncorked.com) or call 916-2000.

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

## Coastal Youth Ballet Theatre presents 'The Nutcracker'



The area's only presentation of the holiday tradition, "The Nutcracker," is being presented by the Coastal Youth Ballet Theatre on Dec. 12, 13 and 14 at the Myrtle Beach High School Music and Arts Center.

The show will feature a full-length rendition of The Nutcracker, with many local children participating, along with principal dancers from the Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami.

Showtimes are at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13 and a school show at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 14.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. All performances feature open seating.

Tickets are available at The Coastal Dance Centre Studio, 3554 Old Kings Highway, Murrells Inlet, or online at [coastalyouthballettheatre.org](http://coastalyouthballettheatre.org). For groups of 10 or more, call 651-2006.

## Sixth annual Christmas Towne to offer festive family fun

Christmas Towne, a free family event, will be held 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center's events plaza.

This is an outdoor event, and festival goers should dress according to the weather. Christmas Towne is sponsored by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and the city of Myrtle Beach.

Christmas Towne will feature the official tree lighting ceremony for Myrtle Beach at 6 p.m., emceed by Diane DeVaughn Stokes as Jingles the Elf. The 25-foot live tree, ornamental lights and festive decorations are provided courtesy of the City of Myrtle Beach and the MBACC.

"Christmas Towne is a great way to get everyone in the holiday spirit," said Amie Lee, MBACC director of festivals and special events. "We are excited to move the event to a Sunday, which allows us to grow Christmas Towne by extending the hours. Being the season for giving, we are delighted to continue hosting a free community event and encourage attendees to bring a toy to help those less fortunate."

The festival will offer train rides, inflatable rides and the popular photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Member businesses will be providing activities and games for children at no cost, while promoting their business and services.

Live entertainment and refreshments will also be part of the festivities.

The ceremony will showcase the talents of many local groups. The MBACC will be serving free hot chocolate while supplies last. Christmas Towne is an official drop-off location for Toys for Tots.

Those who attend are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help make holiday dreams come true for local children.

For more information, visit [MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com](http://MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com) or call 626-7444.

# Guess Who's Coming To Myrtle Beach?

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