

# Travel

MELISSA HANELINE - POST AND COURIER



# Wine + Food

# = CHARLESTON

## March festival's perks and attractions add up to a long weekend to savor on the coast.

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Now in its fifth year, the BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival is bigger - and better - than ever. This year's March 4-7 helping still has tickets available to many menu items, making it relatively easy to plan a last-minute trip.

Unlike many American festivals of this kind, Charleston's recipe for success focuses on Southern cuisine - especially Lowcountry fare - creatively prepared by nationally known local chefs and world-renowned visitors (like Bobby Flay and Tyler Florence in past years and Daniel Boulud this year). From dine-arounds where local and visiting chefs team up to prepare five-course meals paired with wines, to a Culinary Village at Marion Square - the epicenter of the epicurean weekend - Charleston is the place for foodies to be in a few short weeks.

**TOP: Mitchell Crosby of JMC Charleston creates centerpieces for the 2009 Charleston Wine + Food Festival. These pieces were inspired by guest chef Bobby Flay.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LETSTALKCHARLESTON.C

Mike Lata, right, of FIG prepares oysters at the 2009 festival.