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Food Watch: Caribbean Food & Wine Festival

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I'm just back from the second annual [Caribbean Food & Wine Festival](#), hosted by Grace Bay Resorts in Providenciales, Turks & Caicos. Festivities for the three-day event kicked off at the exquisite Amanyara resort with sunset cocktails, heavy hor d'oeuvres and introductions to the weekend's key players: Local chefs like Grace Bay Club's Wolfgang Von Wieser and the Gansevoort's Matthew Doerner teamed up with international sensations chefs Beau MacMillan and Paul Richard Newman (both Iron Chefs) as well as some of California's finest winemakers: Heidi Barrett of La Sirena, John Terlato of Terlato Wines and Tuck Beckstoffer of his eponymous label. The next evening's Gourmet Safari tested, trained and tempted my palette with courses like lionfish pizzetta, fritto misto with local conch, oxtail-and-foie-gras cannelloni, and papaya brûlée. Each winemaker chose a particular variety for each dish — crisp, citrus moscato with the brûlée; full-bodied, velvety Pirate TreasuRed with the cannelloni — that perfectly drew out the flavors of the food. And there was still more to come: a food-and-wine pairing the next morning, followed by a street fair that showcased some of the best local dishes (keyword: conch! And good ol' Turks Head pairs just fine with that.) All of it set against the backdrop of white sands and turquoise water that makes everything taste just that much better.