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Event Recap

Periwinkle Hosts Houston's Premier Sommelier Competition and Wine Tasting *Iron Sommelier Presented by AutoSol®*

- WHAT:** **The Periwinkle Foundation's Iron Sommelier 2016**, presented by AutoSol, "The Leader in Industrial Automation."
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 20, 2016
- WHERE:** Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa
111 North Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024
- DETAILS:** Six hundred of The Periwinkle Foundation's board members, patrons and supporters, plus wine enthusiasts gathered at the Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa for an evening of taste, entertainment and charity as 14 of Houston's finest sommeliers gathered to showcase their expertise. **More than \$280,000** was raised for Periwinkle's Camps, Arts and Survivor programs for children, teens and their families challenged by cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Competitors were judged by Master Sommelier **Brian Cronin** of Palm Bay International, New York, NY; **Liz Dowty** of European Cellars, New Orleans, LA; and **Antonio Gianola** of Houston Wine Merchant, Houston, TX – on presentation, knowledge and choice of wines. While the competitors were being judged, guests traveled around the ballroom tasting wines to cast their vote for People's Choice and indulging in bite-sized food pairings created by The Houstonian Hotel.

Christian Varas of River Oaks Country Club reigned supreme winning the title of **Iron Sommelier 2016**. Other awards included:

- 1st runner up** – Evan Turner of Helen Greek Food and Wine
2nd runner up – Thomas Moesse of Divino Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar
Underwriter Tasting Room, Best Presentation – Melissa Lamb of Fleming's Prime Steakhouse

Melissa Lamb of Fleming's Prime Steakhouse won **People's Choice**

CHAIRS: Sean Beck and John Clutterbuck

GUESTS: Sean Beck, Julie Cannoy and Doug Osburn, John and Anne Clutterbuck, Lisa and Mark Cox, Michael Jackson, Collin LaFavers, Eric and Dr. Erin Otness, Dale Robertson, Chris Shepherd, Mike and Nancy Syzdek

PHOTO CREDITS: Dave Rossman

ABOUT: The Periwinkle Foundation develops and provides programs that positively change the lives of children, young adults and families who are challenged by cancer and other life threatening illnesses and are cared for at Texas Children's Hospital. Funds raised through the Iron Sommelier help support the Periwinkle Camps, Arts and Survivor Programs that serve more than 14,000 children, teens and families. This is made possible by a collaborative community of 20,000 supporters with a reach of more than 12 million impressions worldwide.

For more information, visit www.ironsoommelier.org or www.periwinklefoundation.org

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