



Media Contact:
Leticia Luna
Elmore Public Relations
leticia@elmorepr.com
713.524.0661

EVENT RECAP

Andres Blanco Reigns Supreme at Iron Sommelier Presented by AUTOSOL®

Periwinkle celebrates ten years of the premier sommelier competition and wine tasting event

- WHAT:** The Periwinkle Foundation's Iron Sommelier 2017, presented by AUTOSOL, "The Leader in Industrial Automation."
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 9, 2017
- 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. The event raised a record **\$290,000** for Periwinkle's Camps, Arts and Survivor programs for children, teens and their families challenged by cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Competitors upped the ante with innovative themes, which were judged along with their presentation and knowledge of each wine they selected. The expert panel of Master Sommeliers judging included Keith Goldston of Mastro's Steakhouse, David Keck of Goodnight Charlie's and June Rodil of McGuire Moorman Hospitality Group. While the competitors were being judged, guests traveled around the ballroom tasting wines and indulging in delectable pairings crafted by competitors' restaurant groups and The Houstonian Hotel.

Andres Blanco of Caracol, first-time competitor at the event, took home the title of **Iron Sommelier 2017** with his "Wines of Mexico" theme. Other awards included:

1st runner up – Angie Chang, Yauatcha

2nd runner up – Evan Turner, Helen Greek Food and Wine, Helen in the Heights

Underwriter Tasting, Best Presentation – Lindsay Huntsman, Emmaline and Evan Turner, Helen Green Food and Wine, Helen in the Heights

People's Choice – Andres Blanco, Caracol

CHAIRS: Sean Beck and John Clutterbuck

GUESTS: Bill Baldwin and Fady Armanious; Sean Beck; Julie Cannoy and Doug Osburn; Carla Cardini, MS; John and Anne Clutterbuck; Jack Mason, MS; Dr. Jayne and Dr. Carlos Rivera; Chris Shepherd and Lindsay Brown; Dale Robertson; Franelle Rogers

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.ironssommelier.org or www.periwinklefoundation.org.

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