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### **Houston's Iron Sommelier named at The Periwinkle Foundation's Premier Sommelier Competition and Wine Tasting**

Houston, Texas On September 11, Houston's best sommeliers competed for the title of Houston's Iron Sommelier in a fundraiser benefiting The Periwinkle Foundation. The Houstonian Hotel and Spa hosted 300 guests as they mingled, noshed on appetizers and tasted selected wines that focused on particular wine regions, type of grape and style. Nearly \$150,000 was raised for The Periwinkle Foundation through big board auction items, Making A Mark® Children's Art Sale and ticket sales.

"This event continues to grow and we are thankful to everyone involved for making this a great success, in particular our event chairs Sean Beck and John Clutterbuck," said Joe Birkofer, The Periwinkle Foundation board president. "Houstonian's have embraced this event and we are deeply grateful for their support of The Periwinkle Foundation and the life-changing programs we provide."

The title of Iron Sommelier 2012 went to Ben Roberts of Masraff's. Other awards presented included:

1<sup>st</sup> runner up – Steven McDonald of Pappas Bros.

2<sup>nd</sup> runner up – Mike Sammons of 13 Celsius

Grand Tasting Room – Evan Turner of Janco Beverage Importing & Distributing

People's Choice – Christian Varas of River Oaks Country Club

Each Iron Sommelier contestant brought three wines, plus one premium wine to present in the Private Grand Tasting for the Underwriters. Sommeliers were rated on wine choice, presentation, creativity and knowledge of their wine selections. In total, there were over 50 different wines from Greece to Napa available for tasting. Judges were: Saree Mims, Certified Sommelier, WSET III Advanced, Champagne/Fine Wine Specialist, Republic National Distribution Company; Robyn Tinsley, Co-founder and Managing Editor of WineSkinny.com, Wine Writer; and Dr. Madaiah Revana, Owner of Revana Family Vineyards in California and Oregon.

Funds raised through the Iron Sommelier help support The Periwinkle Foundation's camps and programs throughout the year, which positively change the lives of children, young adults, and families who are challenged by cancer and other life threatening illnesses who are cared for at Texas Children's Hospital.

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#### **About The Periwinkle Foundation**

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.