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

Houston, Texas – On September 26, Houston's best sommeliers competed for the title of Houston's Iron Sommelier in a fundraiser benefiting The Periwinkle Foundation. The Foundation hosted 450 guests as they mingled, noshed on appetizers and tasted selected wines that focused on particular wine regions, type of grape and style at The Houstonian Hotel and Spa. More than \$205,000 was raised for The Periwinkle Foundation through underwriting, big board auction items, Making A Mark Children's Art Sale and ticket sales.

"This year's Iron Sommelier was our biggest to date, and we are thankful to everyone involved in making it a huge success," said Doug Suggitt, Executive Director of The Periwinkle Foundation. "The generous support of our underwriters, event chairs Sean Beck and John Clutterbuck, our amazing sommeliers and all of the Periwinkle supporters in attendance made it possible to exceed our fundraising goals, which enables us to continue providing life changing programs to children, young adults and their families who are challenged by cancer and other life threatening illnesses."

The title of Iron Sommelier 2013 went to Christian Varas of River Oaks Country Club. Other awards presented included:

1st runner up – Steven McDonald of Pappas Bros. Steakhouse

2nd runner up – Evan Turner of Helen: Greek Wine and Food

Underwriter Tasting Room, Best Presentation – Travis Hinkle of The Pass & Provisions

People's Choice – Ben Roberts of Masraff's

Judges were: Devon Broglie, MS, Antonio Gianola and Vilma Mazaite

Each Iron Sommelier contestant brought three wines, plus one premium wine to present in the Private 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 Valley available for tasting.

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. For more information visit <http://periwinklefoundation.org>