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

Houston, Texas – On October 2, Houston's best sommeliers competed for the title of **Iron Sommelier in a fundraiser benefiting The Periwinkle Foundation**. The Foundation hosted 500 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, Club and Spa. **More than \$230,000 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 a tremendous success, and we are so very thankful for our amazing donors, committee members and volunteers," said Doug Suggitt, Executive Director of The Periwinkle Foundation. "We exceeded our fundraising goal thanks to the generous support of our underwriters, our Sommelier Chair John Clutterbuck and Wine Chair Sean Beck, our amazing sommeliers and all of the Periwinkle supporters who attended this special evening. Thanks to their support, we will continue to expand our life-changing programs for the children, teens and their families who are challenged by cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and cared for at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers."

The title of **Iron Sommelier 2014 went to Steven McDonald of Pappas Bros. Steakhouse**. Other awards presented included:

- 1st runner up – Christian Varas of River Oaks Country Club
- 2nd runner up – Evan Turner of TABLE on Post Oak
- Underwriter Tasting Room, Best Presentation – Vanessa Trevino Boyd of 60 Degrees Mastercrafted
- People's Choice – Sam Governale of Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Judges were: Antonio Gianola, Houston Wine Merchant
Ben Roberts, Republic National Distributors
Vince Henderson, Henderson's Selections

Each Iron Sommelier contestant brought three wines and 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, arts and survivor programs throughout the year, which positively impact the lives of children, young adults and families 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>