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**Best Cellars Houston Dinner
Raises New Record Funds for Cancer Research**

Houston, Texas -- The annual T. J. Martell Foundation's Best Cellars Dinner, Thursday, September 26, 2019, was sold out at Hotel ZaZa Museum District. The buzzy crowd had an exceptional gastronomy experience of food and incredible wines were shared with all the wine aficionados and foodies raising a new record of over \$172,000 for The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Chairman **Franelle Rogers** with Honorary Chairmen **Carolyn Faulk, Cathy and David Herr, Jeanie and Jim Janke and Dean Putterman** brought together some of the best of Houston's chefs, wine collectors and entertainment to create the perfect blend of food, wine and music. Rogers was recognized for her long-time commitment to the event and given a special award. Legendary Texas country star **Pat Green** entertained the attendees.

Chef Chairman **Mark Cox** gathered renowned guest chefs **Chef Luis Roger of BCN Taste and Tradition, Chef Philippe Verpiand of Etoile Cuisine et Bar** and new to the scene **Chef Drake Leonards of Eunice**, along with pastry **Chef Kristy Quach of Hotel ZaZa** created a culinary experience for the guests, with each chef incorporating new trends and tastes for the guests. Wine Hosts Chairman **Robert T. Sakowitz** had gathered a group of wine hosts with unparalleled cellars to delight every palate. Each table had world class wines, paired with each course. The Presenting Sponsor was Burr Computer Environments, Inc.

Emcee and auctioneer **Shawn Parr**, nationally syndicated radio show host of *Nash Nights Live* and voice of the ACM's, AMA's and The Golden Globes, stepped up to the microphone to get the party started. Parr donned his new glittering auction jacket that brought applause from the crowd as bidders vied for the experiences in the live auction. Guests and wine glasses moved to the Ultimate Ransom room for the after party and the performance by award-winning songwriters Rob Hatch and Justin Wilson.

Proceeds from the event go to the T.J. Martell Foundation's mission of funding innovative cancer research at top institutions in the United States. In Houston, the Foundation supports the Physician Scientist Program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. M.D. Anderson's Physician-Scientist Program launches the career of the best and brightest young faculty members who receive up to five years of research support with 80% dedicated research time and intensive mentoring to attain independent federal grant support. Graduates of the program are established, independent researchers, who are well prepared to become the leaders of translational cancer research, nationally and internationally

Seen in the crowd: Stephanie and David Baird, Ed Finger, Hallie Vanderhider, Mark Bermann, Elizabeth and Alan Stein, Caroline Kenney, Guy Stout, Chantell Preston, Cindy and Chip Beaver, Julie and Stephen Chen, Pat Studdert, Shari Heyen & David Kurzweil, Dean Putterman, Suzanne Duin Stewart and Michael Stewart, Christian Varas, Tracy Dieterich, Margaret and TJ Farnsworth, Jennifer and Scott Allison, James Bruno, Tammy and Tim Andreas, Carol and Bill Simmons, Jennifer and Nick Altman, Norelle and Brian Becker.

For more information about the T.J. Martell Foundation, please visit www.tjmartell.org.