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**Best Cellars Houston Dinner
Raises Needed Funds for Cancer Research**

Houston, Texas -- The Eighth Annual T. J. Martell Foundation's Best Cellars Dinner, Wednesday, September 26, 2018, was sold out at Hotel ZaZa Museum District. The finest food and wine was shared with all the wine aficionados and foodies raising funds for The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Chairman **Franelle Rogers** with Honorary Chairmen **Carolyn Faulk, 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. Legendary country star **Randy Travis** joined the crowd with his wife Mary and received a standing ovation when he was introduced.

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 Sash Kurgan of Doris Metropolitan**, 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 unrivaled personal cellars to delight every palate. Each table had world class wines, paired with each course. The champagne reception was hosted by H-E-B.

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 had a flight delay so Honorary Chair Jim Janke stepped up to the microphone until Parr arrived. Parr donned his special glittering auction jacket that brought applause from the crowd to keep the bidding high. Tickets to attend the invitation only T.J. Martell Foundation wine dinner in Nashville with many of today's country stars and a private party at your home with Nashville songwriter Tim Nichols had hands flying to raise the bids. The crowd applauded during the performance by award- winning songwriters Lance Miller and Rob Hatch and award- winning songwriter artist Jerrod Niemann

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: Dr. Robert Bast, Jr. and Blanche Bast, Stephanie and David Baird, Ed Finger, Hallie Vanderhider, Cathy and David Herr, Mark Bermann, Elizabeth and Alan Stein, Caroline and Gary Kenney, Laura and Jerry Kent, Kim and Mike Weill, Kimberly and Guy Stout, Chantell Preston, Chip Beaver, Becky and Michael Harris, Julie and Stephen Chen, Deana and Larry Blackburn, Carolyn Faulk and Pat Studdert, Doctors Jessica and Gabe Mena, Kelly and Steve Provenzano, Shari Heyen & David Kurzweil.

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