



Best Cellars Dinner
D A L L A S

The T.J. Martell Foundation Announces Best Cellars Dinner Dallas

*Exclusive Dinner Event Salutes the Art of Fine Wine and Food To Raise
Raises Funds for Cancer Research*

Ray Johnston to Perform

Dallas, Texas (April 8, 2014) - The T.J. Martell Foundation for leukemia, cancer and AIDS Research announced the **Best Cellars Dinner Dallas** to take place **Thursday, May 1, 2014 at Hotel ZaZa** located at 2332 Leonard Street in Dallas. The highly anticipated annual event salutes some of Dallas's top wine enthusiasts who come together for one very special evening. The exclusive event also includes a gourmet dinner prepared by popular chefs including **Chef Dan Landsberg**, (*Hotel ZaZa's Dragonfly*), **Chef Bradford Hodgkins** (*FT33*), **Chef Cody Sharp** (*Casa Rubia*) and **Chef Lance Smith** (formerly of *Smoke*). Entertainment will be provided by former Dallas Mavericks basketball player and five-time leukemia survivor, musician **Ray Johnston**.



After his basketball career was cut short by leukemia, Ray Johnston switched his focus to music. His battle with the disease while performing was well documented by HDNet TV in an eight-part series titled "Ray Johnston Band: Road Diaries." He has become a spokesman for the national marrow donor program which connects blood-cancer patients to marrow donors for life-saving transplants.

The Texas Country Rock artist released "Against the Grain" which quickly saw songs like "Me, You & Emmylou," "Bye Bye City Lights" and "Supernatural" become fan favorites. His motto "Smile Hard" has since gone on to become his life's mantra and inspires people worldwide each and every time he takes the stage. His performance at this year's Best Cellars 2014 event will give guests an opportunity to enjoy the music of one of Dallas' most sought-after singer/songwriters.

The Best Cellars Dinner Dallas 2014 event benefits **The T.J. Martell Foundation** whose mission is to fund the combined team of lung cancer experts from the **UT Southwestern Medical Center** and the **University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center** in developing new methods to help patients with lung cancer develop immunity against their own tumors thus offering a new approach to treating the disease.

“The 2014 Best Cellars Dinner Dallas event is critical to the success of our continued efforts to fund and support these remarkable treatment centers and proceeds raised stay right here in Texas,” said Laura Heatherly, CEO of the T.J. Martell Foundation. “We are so proud of the cutting-edge research we have helped to develop and provide to patients across top hospitals nationwide and right here in Texas.”



The Honorary Chairmen of the event are Mary Martha & John Pickens and Chairmen are Nita and Chris Hudson. Both Mary Martha and Nita offer remarkable stories of survival and their own heartwarming personal experiences of their own fight against cancer. The event committee includes JW Amend, Angie Clayton Brown, Mike Delzotti, John Shackelford and Gretchen Vaughan.

The event will begin at 6pm with a champagne reception and silent auction followed by the dinner at 7pm and live entertainment. Tickets and tables are limited. To reserve a table or purchase tickets to the exclusive event contact 214-728-2918 or email Courtney@franciscoandco.com.

ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION:

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry’s largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The Foundation, headquartered in New York, is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues in loving memory of his son T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$260 million dollars for research that supports top hospitals in the United States. For more information click on the T.J. Martell Foundation go to www.tjmartell.org

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