

BENEFIT

Wine Tasting To Benefit Local Charity

By NB INDY STAFF

John and Janice Markley of Newport Beach have again collected and donated over 350 bottles of exquisite wines to be uncorked at The Wooden Floor's 9th Annual Keep the Promise Wine Tasting Benefit on September 24, 2015, at Big Canyon Country Club.

Every year, the Markleys seek out top rated wines to be served to the more than 300 attendees. Guests will taste from 12 featured wines ranked in the top one to five percent of their regions, including Argentina, Austria, Australia, France, Italy, and California.

The event benefits The Wooden Floor's year-round dance, academic, college and career readiness, and family service programs for low-income youth.

This year's collection features wines that average 97 points, including two wines that fetch up to \$225 a bottle and are rated 100 points each, the highest possible rating for a wine.

According to wine critic E. Robert Parker's website, a rating of 96 to 100 points is extraordinarily rare and "worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume."



John and Heidi Oswald with Bronze Medal Sponsors Tim and Amber Smith at the 2013 Keep the Promise Wine Tasting.

Guests of Keep the Promise will be saved the effort and given the opportunity to taste each wine during a "blind tasting" competition—all for a good cause.

Featured wines this year:

2006 Casanova di Neri Brunello Tenuta Nuova. Tuscany, Italy. Rated 100 pts. Retail Cost: \$105

2006 Cheval Des Andes. Mendoza, Argentina. Rated 96 pts. Retail Cost: \$74

2010 Courbis Cornas Les Eygats.

Rhone, France. Rated 99 pts. Retail Cost: \$151

2010 Eldridge Estate Pinot Noir. Mornington Peninsula, Australia. Rated 95+ pts. Retail Cost: \$54

2007 Robert Craig Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon. Napa, California. Rated 96 pts. Retail Cost: \$70

2009 Smith-Haut-Lafitte. Bordeaux, France. Rated 100 pts. Retail Cost: \$225

2007 Domaine Bonneau du Martray Corton Charlemagne. Burgundy, France. Rated 97-99 pts. Retail Cost: \$150

2010 Guigal Condrieu la Doriane. Rhone, France. Rated 98 pts. Retail Cost:

\$86

2010 Kistler Chardonnay Hudson Vineyard. Los Carneros, CA. Rated 95 pts. Retail Cost: \$100

2011 Leeuwin Estate Chardonnay Art Series. Margaret River, Australia. Rated 96 pts. Retail Cost: \$89.

2011 Miani Friulano Buri. Friuli, Italy. Rated 94 pts. Retail Cost: \$108.

1998 Nikolaihof Riesling Steinriesler. Wachau, Austria. Rated 96 pts. Retail Cost: \$75.

The benefit has quickly become one of the region's hot ticket events, selling out each year and bringing together community leaders and philanthropists to raise funds for The Wooden Floor's ongoing success rate of having 100 percent of its graduates complete high school on time and immediately enroll in college, which is over two times higher than that of their socioeconomic peers.

Most of the organization's graduates come from extremely low-income communities and are the first in their families to go to college. Since 2007, this event has raised over \$1.4 million to help support students' journeys out of poverty through access to higher education.

Cost to attend the Keep the Promise Wine Tasting Benefit is \$350 per person, \$250 of which is tax deductible. Sponsorships begin at \$1,000.

Visit TheWoodenFloor.org/WineTasting for details.