A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

Tasting notes

A bottle of 2011 Kosta Browne Sonoma Coast pinot noir, valued at $1,200, was up for bid.

1996 R&L Lespipes Blanc de Blancs Cuvée Saint-Vincent, Champagne, France
Fine bubbles, brioche, apple and spice. This Champagne is a vin de garde, which can be kept for more than 20 years after its vintage date. Richard Juhlin rating: 97 points. $97.

2006 Peter Michael Char- lson Vineyard Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast, California
Uncouth and layered, rich and creamy, showing opulent fig, melon and honeysuckle flavors that are full-bloomed and flow easily, with touches of ginger and honey. Complex, intense and persistent. The Wine Spectator rating: 96 points. $385.

2006 Jim Barry, The Ar- nath Shiraz, Clare Valley, Australia
Showing a saturated purple color, it gives off a nose of smoked meat, incense, Asian spices, boysenberry, mulberry and plum. With exceptional depth, richness and structure, impeccably balanced Shiraz. Wine Advocate rating: 98 points. $1,513.

1994 Lopez de Heredia Viña Tondonia Gran Reserva, Rioja, Spain
The 1994 Viña Tondonia Gran Reserva has an elegant bouquet with light red cherries and orange blossom. The palate is a meaty, sa- voyer entry with crisp tannins and racy acidity. Superb structure toward the finish with notes of bitter lemon, orange peel and sage. Wine Advocate rating: 96 points. $97.

2009 Château Préré-Léchot Margaux, Bordeaux, France
The soft, sexy 2009 exhibits a dense plum/purple color along with a big, sweet bouquet of raspberries, black cher- ries, black currants, smoke and forest floor. Wine Advocate rating: 94-97 points. $48.

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BOTTLE EVERYWHERE, TABLES FILLED WITH DELECTABLE FOOD AND THE SOUND OF CLINKING GLASSES GOT THE PARTY STARTED AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL KEEP THE PROMISE FUNDRAISER FOR THE WOODEN FLOOR PLACE, ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED WINE TASTINGS ON THE CHARITY CIRCUIT.

IT WAS A NIGHT OF INBIBING AND SOCIALIZING AT THE BIG CANYON COUNTRY CLUB IN NEWPORT BEACH. THE SOPHISTICATED AFFAIR WAS A BLIND WINE TASTING: PATRONS TASTED 15 WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND TRIED TO IDENTIFY THEM ON A SCORING SHEET. JANICE AND JOHN MARKLEY, CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE EVENT WITH JOAN AND DON BESSL, DONATED THE EXCEPTIONAL WINES.

AND WHITE IS MADE FOR A GROWN-UP AFFAIR: THE YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM OF "THE WOODEN FLOOR'S STUDENTS WAS STILL A CENTERPIECE OF THE EVENING. THEY GREETED GUESTS AND TOLD THEIR STORIES -- THE NONPROFIT BASED IN SANTA ANA SUPPORTS THESE CHILDREN AND LEADS THEM TO COLLEGE THROUGH FREE DANCE EDUCATION, FAMILY SERVICES AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.

"THIS BECOMES THEIR HOME, THEIR FAMILY," SAID SHARON HARTSHORN, A PREMIER SPONSOR WHOSE HANDS ON THE BOARD FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS.

"THOSE KIDS ARE BECOMING BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMMUNITY. THEY ARE STARTING A RIPPLE EFFECT," SAID DAWN REESE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-CEO OF THE WOODEN FLOOR.

DURING THE NIGHT'S EVENTS, IT WAS APPARENT THE STUDENTS WERE PROUD OF WHERE THEY CAME FROM AND CONFIDENT ABOUT WHERE THEY ARE TAKING THEM.

"I'M NOT SURE WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP," SAID ELSIE DELORA. "BUT I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING GREAT!"

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WENDY DAILEY, COURTESY OF INTERNATIONAL SANCTUARY

INTERNATIONAL SANCTUARY'S BOUTIQUE IS IN LOS ALAMITOS.

GET INVOLVED

BOUTIQUE PARTY OFFERS GOODS AS WELL AS THE CHANCE TO DO GOOD FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.

You can get handmade jewelry at a bargain price and help survivors of human trafficking. International Sanctuary helps women from India and Orange County recover and reintegrate into society after their traumatic experiences.

At this event, A Place Of Our Own invites you to its salon, where you'll enjoy live music, wine, food, raffles, a photo booth and the unveiling of the latest designs from iSanctuary. Shopping for a cause couldn't be easier.

Admission is free. 5-9 p.m. Sat- urday at A Place Of Our Own Salon, 10655 S. Oakridge Drive, Los Alamitos. For more information, call 949-752-7788.

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DAN PLATT AND HIS WIFE, BONNIE, FLANK STUDENT ANDREA SOSA.

BOARD CHAIRMAN ERNESTO VASQUEZ WITH BOARD EMERITA SOCCORO VASQUEZ.

DIANA AND GARETH EVANS SAVOR A WINE POURED BY MICHAEL ERNST.

BOARD MEMBER SHARON HARTSHORN AT THE EVENT.

PHOTOS: GREG ANDERSON, FOR THE REGISTER

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IN THE DETAILS

ADULTS RAISE A GLASS WHILE STUDENTS RAISE THE SPIRITS OF ALL.

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PHOTO: GREG ANDERSON, FOR THE REGISTER