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Miami Wine and Food Festival Best in Glass Wine Challenge, Monday, January 10

Written by SFG Staff

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The Miami Wine and Food Festival's Best in Glass Wine Challenge - in benefit of United Way of Miami-Dade - a wine competition judged by more than 25 of South Florida's foremost sommeliers and wine directors, including: Wine and Food Magazine's sommelier of the year - David Mokha of Fontainebleau Miami Beach; Jorge Mendoza, Sommelier, The Ritz Carlton, Key Biscayne; Allegra Angelo of Michy's and Sra. Martinez; Mackenzie Parks of Sugarcane and Sushi Samba; Erik Saccomani of Casa Tua the Hotel; Sebastien Verrier of Palme d'Or at The Biltmore Hotel; and Cynthia Betancourt of Azul at Mandarin Oriental will be held on **Monday, January 10 at 1 p.m. and will take place at the new Culinary Institute at Miami Dade College, 415 NE 2nd Avenue Building 9000, 3rd floor.**

250 wines are competing and the winners will be featured at the judges' restaurants and hotels, respectively, during **Best in Glass month**, from mid-March through mid-April. The challenge will culminate at the 16th Annual Miami Wine and Food Festival (April 14-17, 2011), where award-winning wines will be featured at the festival's Saturday night Cellarbration Dinner.

Also judging the Challenge are: Claudio Giordano, Owner, AltaMare; Justin Hall, wine director at Bourbon Steak Miami; Eric Larkee, sommelier, Michael's Genuine Food & Drink; John Mayfield, head sommelier, db Bistro Moderne Miami; Ernesto Plagata, general manager and wine director, Ortanique Miami; Gino Santangelo, executive sommelier, The Forge; Daniel Toral, beverage director, Sustain Restaurant; Antoni Yelamos, director of food and beverage, Solea Restaurant & Tapas Bar and W South Beach Hotel; Timothy Eagen, Chops Lobster Bar, Boca Raton; Grace Abel, sommelier, The Grateful Palate.

1-2pm - judge deliberate to choose award-winning wines

2-3pm – judges will be available for interviews

3pm – winning wines will be announced

4-6pm – Celebration Reception (tasting award-winning wines)

For additional information, contact Yanet Obarrio Sanchez at

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