

Top wineries to participate in 12th annual CasaVino to benefit Mesquite charities Sept. 18 at CasaBlanca

An impressive list of wineries and vineyards will highlight the 12th annual Southern Wine and Spirits CasaVino wine tasting fund raiser Sept. 18 in the Grand Ballroom of the CasaBlanca Resort.

Scheduled from 2-5 p.m., the event will benefit several Mesquite charities including Heide's Cottage, the Salvation Army Food Bank along with several schools.

CasaVino is a classy cultural event that has raised thousands of dollars for the community of Mesquite. Together CasaBrewsake each June and CasaVino each September have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities in Mesquite.

"Back in 1999, the creation of CasaVino fulfilled two separate needs within our community – a fundraising venue to support our local non-profit organizations as well as a fun cultural event," explained Marty Rapson, General Manager of the CasaBlanca Resort. "The first year, we had about 125 people attend, and that total has increased dramatically as CasaVino has continued to gain popularity.

"Considering the economy today, this year's CasaVino will be even more important as it relates to our community," Rapson added. "The events raised more than \$50,000 just in the past two years and more than \$200,000 overall."

Rapson added that the involvement of Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada has been invaluable considering the increased popularity of CasaVino.

Roberta Franco, the director of the Mesquite Salvation Army, said CasaVino has been a blessing in disguise.

"For two years we have been a recipient of some of the funds," said Franco, who moved to Mesquite from Littleton, Colo. two years ago. "It helps us keep services going to our clients in the community. One of the big things we earmark the funds for is the food bank. The people who come to the food bank have more than tripled in the past two years. Without these funds, we would have to turn some of these people away.

"For a little town, there is no end to the giving here. We have a very neat community."

Among the wineries represented at CasaVino will be Trinchero Family Estates, a Napa Valley wine company that is owned and operated by the Trinchero family. Immigrants from northern Italy in the 1920s, the Trincheros came to the Napa Valley in 1947 and purchased an abandoned 19th-century winery named Sutter Home in St. Helena. For the next quarter-century, the Trincheros ran Sutter Home as a small mom-and-pop winery.

The all-star list of participants also includes AV Brands Inc., Constellation Wines USA; DFV Wines; Foster's Wines America; Francis Coppola; Moet Hennessy USA; Pernod Ricard USA; Prestige Wine Imports; W J Deutsch & Sons; Dolce Imports; Don & Sons; Chocovine; Frexienet; Yarden and Sake City.

A \$25 donation includes a sampling of more than 50 world-class wineries; along with an etched CasaVino wine glass.

Further information can be found by calling 702-346-7091. Anyone attending the event must be 21.

CAPTION:

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