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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL™ REPORTS INCREASE IN
TOTAL ATTENDEES**

*Southern California's Largest Wine & Food Festival Accommodated Over 10,000 at Weeklong Event
from November 18-24, 2013*

San Diego, CA (February 10, 2014) – The producers of the [San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival™](#) are proud to announce a significant increase in total attendees at last year's 10th Annual Festival. Throughout the week of November 18-24, 2013, over 10,000 wine and food aficionados flocked to America's Finest City to participate in a weeklong culinary extravaganza, offering over 20 different cooking classes, wine and spirits tasting seminars, and celebrity brunches and dinners. The Grand Tasting Event, the largest celebration during the [wine and food festival](#), taking place on Saturday, November 23, saw 70 restaurant and 170 wine and spirit purveyors sampling on-site, said Michelle Metter, co-producer of the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival.

“The San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival's 10-year anniversary holds a lot of sentimental value for us,” added Metter. “We are proud that what started as an idea between two friends has become one of the largest, most-celebrated culinary experiences in the nation. The celebrity chef line-up, star-studded event roster, and culinary and enology talent in attendance made this year's Festival a world-class event.”

Tickets to many of the week's hosted events sold out including:

- La Plancha Pop Up Dinner: Celebration of Baja & Tequila Tasting
- Haute French Cuisine & Vintage Burgundy Tasting Featuring James Beard Nominee Chef William Bradley
- Passion for Fusion Featuring Master Chef Peng S. Looi
- Pappy Van Winkle Experience Presented by *Imbibe Magazine*
- The Best American Cheeses You've Never Heard of Featuring James Beard Award Winner Laura Werlin
- Pinot Nirvana Featuring a Panel of Notable Winemakers
- Italian Master Class: A Wine + Food Experience Featuring Acquerello's Chef Suzette Gresham and Giancarlo Paterlini
- Chateau Montelena Tasting & Tastemaker Luncheon at Mister A's
- California Cult Classics Wine Tasting Hosted by Master Sommelier Frederick Dame
- Southwestern Holiday Showstoppers presented by *Cooking Light Magazine*

- Master Sommelier Blind Tasting Featuring Master Sommelier Joe Spellman
- Collection Access to The Vault: Reserve & New Release Tasting
- VIP Access to Grand Tasting Event Presented by Harrah's Rincon
- Early Entry Access to Grand Tasting Event
- Gale Gand's Birthday Brunch with Friends

This year's [food and wine festival](#) also introduced a competitive element at many of its tasting events. Attendees at The San Diego Classics: Fish Tacos & Craft Beers and SWISH: Serious Sips & Urban Eats – The Burger Bash Edition, were able to vote for their favorite fish tacos and San Diego burgers, respectively. At the Grand Tasting Event, over 40 restaurants submitted entries to the Chef of the Fest Competition, judged by a panel of celebrity chefs. Of the 40, one restaurant was also crowned the People's Choice Award Winner.

The winners of the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival are as follows:

Best Fish Taco

Sandbar Sportsbar & Grill

Cotija-Crusted Flour Tortilla, Marinated Dorado, Roasted Homemade Chipotle Aioli, Beer-Brined Escabeche Slaw, Spicy Guacamole, Lime Crema, Tobacco Onions, and Fried Cilantro

Best Burger

barleymash

The Mini Champ – Grilled Beef Patty, Ale-Braised Pulled Pork, Pepper Jack Cheese, Habanero Jelly, Bourbon BBQ-Ranch, and Tobacco Onions

Grand Tasting Event: Chef of the Fest

Rich Sweeney – R-Gang Eatery

Duck Fat-Fried Beignets with Burnt Orange Cream, Smoked Duck "Dust," and Crispy Glazed Duck Skin

Grand Tasting Event: People's Choice of Award

Brad Lyons – Slater's 50/50

The 50/50 Burger – Slater's Signature Patty, Sunny-Side Up Egg, Avocado Mash, Pepper Jack Cheese, Chipotle Adobo Mayo on White Brioche

The Festival also has a longstanding tradition of philanthropy benefitting the scholarship programs organized by the San Diego Chapters of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and The American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF). The *Wine Spectator* Celebrity Chef Dinner & Big Bottle Live Auction and The Vault: Reserve & New Release Tasting hold live and silent auctions, the proceeds of which benefit culinary arts and enology scholarships awarded by the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and AIWF. This year, a total of \$33,145.82 was awarded to students and professionals pursuing full-time or continuing education programs in the culinary or enology arts. The San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival has raised more than \$252,200 for the AIWF scholarship program and \$38,900 for the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs to date.

The 11th Annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is scheduled for November 17-23, 2014. Tickets for the Festival will go on sale in June. For more information, please visit www.sandiegowineclassic.com or call 619-312-1212.

SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

The 10th Annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is an international showcase of the world's premier wine and spirits producers, chefs and culinary personalities, and gourmet foods. Held November 18-24, 2013, the event benefits culinary arts and enology scholarships awarded by The American Institute of Wine & Food and the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Over 200 wineries, breweries and spirit companies, 70 of San Diego's top fine dining restaurants and 30 gourmet food companies participated in the 2012 Festival. For more information visit www.sandiegowineclassic.com. Produced by World of Wine Events and Fast Forward Event Productions. For more information call 619-312-1212.

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