

RED HOT WINE TASTING RAISES MONEY FOR BURN FUND

April 15, 2008 [North Vancouver] Last Thursday, April 10 a unique wine tasting at Vancouver's Savory Coast Restaurant, the Red Hot Wine Tasting, raised more than \$2000 for the BC Professional Firefighters' Burn Fund.



DJ Kearney, David Scholefield and Dee Anand at Vancouver's Savory Coast

Three weeks ago, the family home of North Vancouver-based wine experts David Scholefield and DJ Kearney was gutted by fire. Their home was destroyed, but through the thoughtful actions of the District of North Vancouver Firefighters that assisted on scene, the family recovered a few personal items, including about 20% of their extensive wine collection. Industry friends have been rallying to help the family get back on their feet with a tremendous level of support, as well as donations of money, wines or new household items.

To thank everyone, Scholefield and Kearney invited those who came to their aid to a 'Red Hot Wine Tasting' to taste some of the wines that survived the flames. The pair thought it only fitting that the proceeds be donated to the Burn Fund, to give back some of the support they received.

"The labels may be charred, but for the purposes of science, must be served," Scholefield had jokingly remarked in planning the tasting. The extensive collection of wines is basically devalued now, so he and Kearney decided to open the wines up to see how they fared. Dee Anand, a friend of the family and owner of Savory Coast, said the surviving wine was fine, and marvelled at what a special opportunity it was to be able to taste wines from some of the world's most famous labels all at once.

To supplement the couples' wines, suppliers Calibrium International, New World Wines, Next Beverage, Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, Vincor Canada and Vinterra Wine Merchants supplied wine to make certain that all of the 150-plus people who attended could taste some perfectly drinkable vintages. Pedersen's Rentals provided crystal glasses, and ambience was enhanced by the 'flame' spotlights from Design Network. Both companies have worked with Scholefield and Kearney many times over, as has local photographer-to-the-stars Phillip Chin, who took portraits of the guests in attendance, with the aim to help rebuild photo memories.

The mood at the afternoon tasting event was warm and festive. Attendees commented on "the upbeat atmosphere and on how delicious the food was. In addition to food prepared by Savory Coast chef Romy Prasad, local chefs who are friends of the family stepped in to help: Park Heffelfinger and George Siu from The Memphis Blues BBQ House, Dino Renaerts from Diva at the Metropolitan Hotel, Julian Bond from the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts and Tim Budd from the Seymour Gold & Country Club each offered samples of food to taste with the wines.

"It makes you profoundly aware of how lucky you are," Scholefield stated as part of a heartfelt speech, where Scholefield and Kearney together acknowledged the overwhelming support they received, and also introduced and thanked Peter Hansen, one of the Firemen who was on scene at the fire. They said that their needs have been met, and now they want to turn attention to the Burn Fund. "After today, no more fire talk," said Scholefield. "It is time to move forward." The family asks that anyone with offers of support please make a donation to the BC Professional Firefighters' Burn Fund: www.burnfund.org

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