

T.J. Martell Foundation Raises Record \$690K During Best Cellars Event

April 17, 2026



From left, John Esposito, Charlie Brusco, Scott Borchetta, Lynn-Anne Huck, Steve Gawley and Dan Getz

The T.J. Martell Foundation hosted its annual Best Cellars Dinner at The Bell Tower in Nashville on Tuesday night, bringing together influential and philanthropic leaders from Nashville's music and wine industries for a charity auction and dinner dedicated to the fight against cancer. As part of the festivities, Martina and John McBride were presented with the Billy Ray Hearn Award of Excellence for their commitment to a cure for cancer. The event raised a record \$690,000 in total revenue.

Esteemed guests included country music legend Randy Travis and his wife, Mary Travis, Grammy-winning singer Michael Bublé, and Grammy/CMA-winning producer Dave Cobb, radio host Frank Ski, Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town and Brad Tursi of Old Dominion.

The dinner was presided over by REPUBLIC Collective EVP, Business & Legal Affairs/Business Development Steve Gawley and co-hosted by MCA President/CEO Mike Harris and HEY NOW Records Co-founder/Warner Music Nashville CEO & Chairman John Esposito. Other execs who dressed up for the occasion included Scott Borchetta, Seth England, Clint Higham, Jon Loba and Jordan Pettit.

“Last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the T.J. Martell Foundation,” Gawley, who is also the chairman of the board of trustees for the T.J. Martell Foundation, noted. “Over that half century, we— together—have raised more than \$280 million to fund bold, high-risk/high reward cancer research that has led to real breakthroughs and lifesaving treatments. This reflects not only strong stewardship, but also the trust that all of you place in this organization.”

Radio personality/auctioneer Shawn Parr hosted the auction. Offers included a duet with Bublé, dinner at Martina McBride’s studio and a private dinner in Dallas with Travis. Nobody, however, bid on the chance to meet the *HITS* staff.



Michael Bublé, Randy Travis and Lauren Alaina



From left, Dave Cobb, Frank Ski and Steve Gawley