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NEW YORK'S ERYN REECE CROWNED MISS SPEED RACK USA 2013

New York; May 17, 2013 – On Thursday, May 16, 16 of the country's top female bartenders went shaker-to-shaker at the finals of the Speed Rack National Tour, competing for industry glory and breast cancer research. The competition was fierce in the spectator-sport-meets-the-best-in-bartending event, but Eryn Reece of New York's Mayahuel and Death & Co. rose to the top, beating out her competitors in the shaking and stirring showdown, earning the title of Miss Speed Rack USA 2013.

More than 200 female bartenders across the country poured their hearts, souls and favorite spirits into the Speed Rack regional heats that were held in 10 of the top cocktail cities

nationwide. Ten finalists rose to the top and took the stage along with six wild card winners at the Speed Rack National Finals held at Element Night Club in New York City. The master mixtresses competed in heats to make rounds of cocktails culled from a list of 50 accepted industry-standard classic recipes, in front of a panel of judges and a crowd of excited viewers. The judging panel, which featured cocktail world luminaries Julie Reiner of Clover Club and Flatiron Lounge, King Cocktail himself Dale DeGross, Audrey Saunders of Pegu Club, and celebrity pastry chef Johnny Iuzzini rated each drink based on prep time and accuracy.

More than 500 guests cheered on the contenders while Pernod-Ricard's Chris Patino emceed the event and San Francisco DJ Ryan Fitzgerald had the house rocking and the audience amped. Top-name male bartenders served as barbacks to keep the show running smoothly and prep the finalists for each round.

Miss Speed Rack USA receives an all-inclusive trip for two to France, where she will enjoy the beauty of the Anjou region and take a tour of the Cointreau distillery while attending the Cointreau Bartender Academie, an educational and intricate program designed to enlighten the trade on the secrets and subtleties of Cointreau. In addition, the founding Partners of BAR (Beverage Alcohol Resource) rewarded Miss Speed Rack USA 2013 with a scholarship to its five-day program (<http://www.beveragealcoholresource.com/>).

ABOUT SPEED RACK

The first nationwide competition designed to highlight up-and-coming women in the cocktail industry, and give back to those impacted by breast cancer, Speed Rack taps top female bartenders in leading cocktail markets and puts them head to head in timed challenges – all for the purpose of raising funds for breast cancer charities and other charities supporting breast cancer research. To date, Speed Rack has raised more than \$150,000. Speed Rack, Inc. was created by produced by nationally acclaimed bartenders and industry ambassadors, Lynnette Marrero and Ivy Mix in conjunction with event coordination by Claire Bertin-Lang of CBLLC and videos by Le Jit Productions.

Additional information can be found on the Speed Rack website www.speed-rack.com, on Facebook www.facebook.com/speedrackinfo and on Twitter @speed_rack. Check out the antics at this year's regional heats by visiting: <http://www.speed-rack.com/videos>

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