

CELEBRATING SUMMER THE SPANISH WAY

Written by Jamie Rogers · Photography by Ross Van Pelt

Beatriz Porras, MD, and her husband, Alvaro Ryes, MD, held their annual end-of-the-summer celebration on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011. Every year, the couple hosts an end-of-the-summer party for their friends and family to enjoy an evening of warm-weathered merriment before the cold weather sets in.

The party carries a different theme each year, encouraging guests to experience a variety of cultures. This year's theme featured Spain, and Dr. Porras incorporated Spanish tradition throughout the food, music, dance and festivities. A guitarist played Spanish tunes while a Flamenco dancer performed in step to the music. Guests enjoyed tantalizing, native Spanish dishes, such as delicious paella and Spanish omelets, which were both aesthetically beautiful and pleasing to the palate. Spanish sweets and a delightfully light, fruity and refreshing, yet deceptively potent, sangria immediately became a guest favorite.

The evening was marvelous, marrying perfect weather, decadent dining, jovial laughter and, of course, dancing of the Paso Doble. The Porras-Ryes event was indeed successful in transporting guests to another time and place in the world. While engaging in all things Spanish, guests were overheard commenting about how the ambiance of the evening actually felt as though they were really in Spain. ❖

Top Right: Joseph Moravec, MD, Dr. Beatriz Porras and Jamie Cusick **Middle Right:** Karisa Cromer, Lindsay Ross, Nina Ramundo and Francheska Ramundo-Maloney **Bottom Right:** Antonio Castro, Dr. Beatriz Porras, Dr. Alvaro Ryes and Cecilia Castro (Colombian Consul in St. Louis) **Bottom Left:** Paula Collins and Paul Carney (Flamenco Louisville)

