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## **Messina Hof Winery Wins Fourth Consecutive Top Texas Wine Award - First Winery to Achieve Four Saddles**

HOUSTON — (February 26, 2007) Claiming its fourth consecutive “Top Texas Wine” Award, Messina Hof’s 2005 Angel Late Harvest Riesling brought the winery its fourth consecutive saddle – the trademark “champion trophy” from this growing event – at the fourth annual Rodeo Uncorked Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) International Wine Competition. Including awards for other varietals, Messina Hof won a total of eight Champion recognitions.

This is the only four-time win in the history of this international wine competition. The Bryan, Texas-based winery previously took home this award for its Paulo Meritage Bordeaux blend in 2004, Johannisberg Riesling in 2005, and it’s Tawny Port in 2006.

The “Top Texas Wine” award is one of five Grand Champion/Best of Show-type of awards given at the HLSR Wine Show, for which a custom-made hand-tooled saddle is presented.

“The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo is a fine organization, and it is a great honor to be recognized, especially when the Texas wine industry is in such an accelerated state of growth,” said Paul Bonarrigo, CEO and winemaker for Messina Hof and Paulo brands.

Messina Hof’s portfolio of HLSR awarded wines for 2007 are:

- 2005 Late Harvest “Angel” Riesling (2007 Top Texas Wine, and Champion: Sweet Riesling category):
- 2005 Barrel Reserve, Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2004 Paulo Merlot
- 2006 Muscat Canelli
- 2006 Gewurztraminer
- 2002 Paulo Port
- 2004 Private Reserve “Reflections” Meritage
- Ivory Port of Call

“As a family vineyard, Messina Hof recognizes that quality grapes are essential to producing Champion wines like the ones awarded in the 2007 HLSR Wine Show. Great wines begin in the vineyard.” Says Bonarrigo. “Every Messina Hof partner understands the gold medal quality vision and is committed to bringing the highest quality wines to your table.”

The Top Wine of Texas will be auctioned at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Wine Auction on Saturday, March 3 at Reliant Center. Messina Hof has a history of fetching high sums for their winners. In 2006, a nine-liter bottle of Messina Hof’s Tawny Port sold for a record-breaking \$45,000.

The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo’s auction is one of the top-10 wine auctions in the country, raising more than one million dollars in 2006.

Messina Hof Winery and Resort, [www.messinahof.com](http://www.messinahof.com), established in 1977, is celebrating their 30th anniversary. Founded on family values, romance and tradition, Messina Hof has led the establishment of the Texas wine industry and ranks as one of the fastest growing, most award-winning wineries in the state. More than 50 types of wine are produced at Messina Hof Winery, located in Bryan, Texas. Sharing the Estate with the Winery are The Vintage House Restaurant and The Villa, voted “most romantic hideaway in the USA,” by Arrington’s Inn Traveler.

Public Relations contact:  
**Nancy Walker**  
979-778-9463, ext. 29  
[walker@messinahof.com](mailto:walker@messinahof.com)