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**** MEDIA ALERT ****

Messina Hof Winery and Resort Headlines the Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival

WHAT: Messina Hof Winery and Resort will join 100 restaurants and 60 wineries to promote Texas food and wine at the 23rd Annual Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival presented by Central Market from April 9-13, 2008 throughout the Greater Austin area.

Messina Hof Winery and Resort will be participating in the following festival events:

Central Market San Antonio Cooking Class

Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo, co-founders of Messina Hof Winery and Resort in Bryan, Texas, will travel to San Antonio for a cooking class, wine tasting and book signing at Central Market. The winemaking couple will prepare four dishes from their third book, *Vineyard Cuisine*. The book shares Messina Hof Winery secrets such as perfect partnerships between wine and food, the Bonarrigo's creation of the "vineyard cuisine" concept, and more than 90 terrific recipes inspired by the "vineyard cuisine" concept that is served at Messina Hof Winery and Resort's The Vintage House Restaurant.

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Central Market

4821 Broadway

San Antonio, 78209

Cost - \$50

Austin Uncorked and Acoustic

A new event for this Festival, this not-to-be-missed party exudes everything Austin in an "anything goes" atmosphere featuring great food and wine, live music and good company. You'll feel right at home at Threadgill's World Headquarters with fabulous wines, beers and cocktails served in a casual backyard venue set against the lights of the Austin downtown

skyline. Enjoy a night under the stars in the heart of Texas listening to A-list bands as we kick off the Festival weekend.

Thursday, April 10th, 9 p.m. to Midnight

Threadgill's Restaurant

301 West Riverside Drive

Austin, 78704

(512) 472-9304

Cost - \$75

Texas Winemaker and Luncheon with Co-founders and Winemakers Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo

Friday, April 11th, Noon to 2 p.m.

Trattori Lisina at the Mandola Estate Winery

13308 FM 150 West

Driftwood, 78619

(512) 894-3111

Messina Hof Bottle signing with Co-founders and Winemakers Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo

Friday, April 11th, 4 to 7 p.m.

HEB

701 S Capital TX HWY

Austin, 78746

(512) 732-9930

Stars Across Texas

The Festival's Grand Tasting, set in the spacious Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom, brings together the best in Texas wine and cuisine. The stars here are definitely big and bright - the hottest restaurants from Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and the Hill Country and beyond bring their best to this unique event. Rub shoulders with celebrated Chefs and Winemakers from Texas, California and the World! The Festival's Guest Chefs will circulate during the event.

Friday, April 11th, 7 to 10 p.m.

Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom

500 East 4th Street

Austin, 78701

(512) 482-8000

Cost - \$130.00

Under the Texan Sun

The climate and landscape of the Texas Hill Country are often compared to that of central Italy, Spain or the South of France - regions that all produce great wines which are NOT Cabernet or Chardonnay. As the Texas wine industry matures, more wineries are moving away from the classics and planting Mediterranean varietals instead - Grenache, Syrah,

Viognier, Tempranillo and Sangiovese are now common in our local vineyards. These grapes are better able to withstand the extremes of the Texas climate and are accustomed to having to dig deep for nutrients, and they make great wines here too. Renowned wine expert Josh Wesson will lead you on a voyage of discovery through the changing landscape of Texas wine.

Saturday, April 12th, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The Four Seasons Hotel
98 San Jacinto Boulevard
Austin, 78701
(512) 478-4500
Cost - \$50

Sunday Fair at San Gabriel Park

Celebrate Texas food and wine at our leisurely Sunday Fair. Sip and sample your way through vendor tents filled with Texas and guest wineries, artisan food vendors and Texas restaurants. Live cooking demonstrations featuring renowned chefs, shade-tree discussions on the state of wine and spirits in Texas and beyond and live music from some of Austin's favorite musicians - there's something for everyone at this one-of-a-kind event. Set in the glorious surroundings of San Gabriel Park. Children 12 and under admitted free!

Sunday, April 13th, Noon to 4 p.m.

San Gabriel Park
Georgetown, 78626
(512) 863-9907
Cost - \$45

For more information on each event or the Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival, visit www.texaswineandfood.org.

WHEN: April 9-13, 2008

WHERE: The Greater Austin and San Antonio Area

COST: Varies for each event, Visit www.texaswineandfood.org or call 512-249-6300 for tickets and VIP passes

About Messina Hof Winery and Resort

Messina Hof Winery and Resort was established in 1977 by Co-Founders Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo. Messina Hof was founded on family values, romance and tradition. Messina Hof is the leader in the establishment of the Texas wine industry and ranks as one of the fastest growing, most award-winning wineries in the state.

Four time winner of the "Top Texas Wine" at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and winner of the "Best in Show" at the 2008 San Antonio International Wine Competition, Messina Hof wines are handcrafted at the winery, located in Bryan, Texas. Messina Hof Winery and Resort also boast on their 100 acre property the Vintage House Restaurant, origin of Vineyard Cuisine Cook Book, the Villa, which was voted "Most Romantic Bed and Breakfast in the USA" and the Wine Master's Room Wine Bar, voted best wine by the glass in the Brazos Valley.

About the Texas Wine and Food Festival

The Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival brings together innovative culinary artisans and wine producers who celebrate the rich traditions that influence Texas wine and food. The Festival's purpose is to promote Texas wine and food and to increase appreciation of Texas' impact on food and wine throughout the world. Founded in the Texas Hill Country in 1986, the Festival is a 501(c)4 non-profit organization.

The Festival is a proud member of the James Beard Foundation, the Texas Department of Agriculture's GO TEXAN program, the Texas Restaurant Association and the Wine and Food Foundation of Texas.