



*Join The Family.*

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**\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\***

### **Messina Hof Winery and Resort hosts "Tapas Cooking Party" with Executive Chef Kenneth Ruud**

**WHAT:** The two tales of tapas began with wine and a Spanish king named Alfonso.

The first tale states King Alfonso wanted the Castilian taverns to serve food with the wine to prevent the wine from going straight to the drinkers' heads. The other claims while traveling King Alfonso ordered a glass of sherry on a windy day. The innkeeper placed ham on the top of the glass to prevent dirt from mixing with the sherry. By the second glass, King Alfonso ordered his sherry with a "tapa" just like the first.

Whatever the origin, Messina Hof Winery & Resort keeps the legends alive by once again pairing tapas with wine at the Tapas Cooking Party. Chef Ruud will teach guests how to sculpt a full meal from small Spanish appetizers with the selection of Texas' best wines from Messina Hof.

For more details or to make a reservation call 800-736-9463 ext. 34

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 17, 2008  
6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Vintage House Restaurant  
Messina Hof Winery and Resort  
4545 Old Reliance Rd  
Bryan, Texas 77808

**COST:** Price per person \$65 plus tax and gratuity

**MENU:**       Roasted peppers with honey and almonds  
  
                  Roasted peppers stuffed with goat cheese  
  
                  Baked Capellini  
  
                  Roasted eggplant stuffed eggs  
  
                  Seared tuna tostados  
  
                  Andouille wrapped filet of beef

**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, 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 Chef Kenneth Ruud**

Originally from upstate New York, Chef Kenneth Ruud is the Vice President of Culinary and Guest Services at Messina Hof. Ruud studied Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island where he specialized in Italian Cuisine. He started his career as a chef at the Marriot Albany then moved on to become an executive chef and event coordinator at a jazz brewery in upstate New York. Before coming to Messina Hof, Chef Ruud perfected his Cajun cooking at the House of Blues in New Orleans.