



Join The Family.

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**** MEDIA ALERT ****

**Messina Hof Winery and Carol's at Cat Springs
Present Vintner Dinner**

WHAT: Carol's of Cats Springs is where casual merges with class, where German ancestry merges with Texas tradition and where Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo, co-founders of Messina Hof Winery and Resort in Bryan, Texas, merge with Chef Jamie Pena to create an elegant vintner's dinner.

The log-and-leather walls of Carol's at Cats Spring will be the perfect background for Winemakers Paul and Merrill to share their story of their award-winning Texas wine. Guests will learn the art of wine tasting and pairing as they enjoy an evening filled with great wine, wonderful food and Texas tales.

For reservations, call 979-865-1100.

WHEN: **Tuesday, May 13, 2008**
7 p.m.

COST: \$ 69 per person plus tax and gratuity

WHERE: **Carol's at Cat Springs**
10745 FM 949
Cat Spring, Texas 78933

MENU: Amusing Bites paired with *Messina Hof Riesling Father and Son Cuvee*

Corn crab chowder with basil paired with *Messina Hof Unoaked Chardonnay*

Salad of seared sea scallops with oriental vinaigrette dressing paired with *Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon*

Grilled rack of lamb with mint and cilantro au jus paired with *Messina Hof Private Reserve Reflections*

Tournedos a la Rossini, Pan seared tenderloin on toasted bread rounds topped with foie gras, wild mushroom and Madeira sauce paired with *Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Shiraz*

Poached pears in port wine paired with *Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Port*

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.

For more information on Messina Hof Winery and Resort, please visit www.MessinaHof.com.

About Chef Jaime Pena of Carol's at Cat Springs

Born in the culinary heart of America, New Orleans, Chef Jaime found his first love in the kitchen, cooking alongside his grandmother at the impressionable age of five. As a teen, Chef Jaime began working in the well-known French Quarter restaurants. In 1996 Chef Jaime graduated with honors from the Louisiana Technical College in Lafayette, Louisiana, and was the Silver Medal winner in the 1995-1996 State Culinary Skills Championship. While attending the school, he had the opportunity to work with the 1996 US Culinary Team while they were training for the Olympics. After serving as private chef for a prestigious Lafayette family, he accepted a position with one of Atlanta's favorite restaurants, Dick and Harry's. Jaime's Houston experience includes serving as a Lead Line Chef for a private catering company, a Lead Cooking Coach for H.E.B in

their Cooking Connection, and as a Lead Line Chef and Sous Chef for the prestigious Briar Club in the Galleria area. Chef Jaime now holds the position of Executive Chef for Carol's at Cat Spring Restaurant, where he offers a variety of excellent food styles.