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## **Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples Kicks Off Messina Hof Harvest Celebration**

**BRYAN, Texas** (June 10, 2008) Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples will launch the Texas wine harvesting season at Messina Hof Winery, the fastest growing award-winning winery and resort in Texas, at their Moonlit Harvest Friday, July 18, 2008, announced Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo, co-founders of Messina Hof Winery.

Commissioner Staples chose Messina Hof Winery's Moonlit Harvest to celebrate the incredible growth of the Texas wine industry. The Texas wine industry contributes more than \$1 billion dollars to Texas's economy and is the fifth largest grape and wine producer in the nation.

"Commissioner Staples is leading the Texas wine industry into an international presence. We look forward to him kicking off our 2008 Harvest season," said Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo.

The second annual Moonlit Harvest will start the first harvesting of the grapes as guests pick grapes from the vineyards, then stomp them under a beautiful sunset. Guests also receive a Messina Hof Harvest souvenir t-shirt to imprint with their purple feet after stomping. After the grapes have been crushed, they will enjoy a multiple-course special dinner at The Vintage House Restaurant.

Harvest is an exciting five-week celebration from July 18 to August 17 featuring a wide variety of food and wine events including the Moonlit Harvest, Harvest, Harvest Murder Mystery Dinners, and the Harvest Vintner's Dinner each weekend.

Messina Hof Winery is located at 4545 Old Reliance Rd. in Bryan, TX.

For more information or to register to be a part of this unforgettable experience, please call (800) 736-9463 ext. 234.

To choose your Harvest Festival package now, please visit  
[http://www.messinahof.com/docs/MH\\_%20Harvest\\_Reg\\_Form\\_08.pdf](http://www.messinahof.com/docs/MH_%20Harvest_Reg_Form_08.pdf).

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**About Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples**

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples has an outstanding record of getting things done. Whether helping his family start a nursery and landscape business, serving on his hometown's city council or being part of local economic development, Todd Staples has proven to be a strong advocate for Texas.

While serving first in the Texas House of Representatives and later as a state senator, he was a recognized leader on such critical issues as worker's compensation reform, private property owners' rights, natural resources, school finance and education just to name a few.

As Agriculture Commissioner, he continues to pursue policies that enable economic strength, youth development, healthy lifestyles and consumer protection. He is charting a course to bring job creation to rural Texas, further the promotion of Texas products around the world, and help farmers and ranchers face tomorrow's challenges and increase profit margins through the use of new technologies and value-added processing.

**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.

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