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**2008 SAN ANTONIO WINE COMPETITION PROVES FRUITFUL
FOR TEXAS WINES**

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Mar. 7, 2008 – Texas wines stood tall at the 8th Annual San Antonio Wine Competition, with 39 Texas wines receiving Gold, Silver and Bronze designations.

“This is the second wine competition this year where the Texas wine industry has performed very well against challenging national and international competition,” said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples. “Award-winning wines are just another reminder of our state’s rich history, dedication and commitment to the wine industry.”

With more than 155 wineries, Texas is the nation’s fifth-largest wine-producing state, contributing \$1 billion annually to the state’s economy. The state has five distinct wine-producing regions, each with its own soil, climate and unique characteristics that give Texas the ability to produce many different varietals.

“As one of Texas’ most established wineries, we’re thrilled with the success of our wines at this year’s San Antonio Wine Competition,” said Paul Bonarrigo, owner of Messina Hof Winery and Resort. “We submitted 14 different entries and all 14 received medals. The results of this competition just prove that Texas is taking up more space on the worldwide wine map.”

Below is a complete list of the 2008 Texas winners:

Category	Wine	Medal
Blush/Rose Dry	Becker Vineyards Provencal, 2007	Bronze
Blush/Rose Sweet	Dry Comal Creek White Black Spanish	Silver
Cabernet Franc	Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Cabernet Franc, 2005	Gold
	Becker Vineyards Cabernet Franc, 2005	Silver
Cabernet Sauvignon, Over \$15	Becker Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, 2005	Gold
	Paulo Cabernet Sauvignon, 2002	Gold
	Llano Estacado Cellar Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Newsom, 2005	Silver
	Texas Hills Kick Butt Cab Hill Country, 2005	Bronze
Cabernet Sauvignon, Under \$15	Llano Estacado Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005	Bronze
	Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005	Bronze
Chardonnay, Over \$15	Llano Estacado Cellar Reserve Chardonnay, 2006	Bronze

Chenin Blanc	Becker Vineyards Chenin Blanc, 2006	Silver
	Messina Hof Chenin Blanc, 2006	Bronze
Italian Varietals	Becker Vineyards Barbera, 2006	Bronze
	Texas Hills Sangiovese, 2005	Bronze
Merlot Blends	Paulo Meritage, 2002	Bronze
Merlot, Under \$15	Becker Vineyards Merlot, 2005	Silver
	Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Merlot, 2005	Bronze
Other Reds Dry	Boar Doe Pillar Bluff Vineyards, 2006	Silver
	Dry Comal Creek Texas Black Spanish Reserve, 2006	Silver
	Pillar Bluff Vineyards Boar Doe, 2005	Bronze
	Messina Hof Private Reserve Reflections, 2005	Bronze
	Sandstone Cellars III, 2006	Bronze
Other Reds Sweet	Messina Hof Papa Paulo Port Private Reserve, 2004	Bronze
	Singing Water Vineyards Sweet Lupe, 2005	Bronze
Other Whites Dry	Fall Creek Vineyards Cache, 2005	Bronze
	Grape Creek Cuvee Blanc, 2006	Bronze
Other Whites Sweet	Llano Estacado Signature White, 2006	Bronze
	Messina Hof Gewurztraminer, 2006	Bronze
Pinot Noir	Bell Mountain Vineyards Estate Bottled Pinot Noir Reserve, 2001	Gold
Porto & Port Styled Wines	Grape Creek Port	Silver
	Llano Estacado Cellar Select Port	Silver
	Becker Vineyards Vintage Port, 2004	Bronze
	Messina Hof Private Reserve Ebony Ports of Call, 2004	Bronze
	Paulo Port, 2003	Bronze
Rhone Blends	Becker Vineyards Grenache, 2006	Silver
Riesling	Messina Hof Father and Son Cuvee Riesling, 2006	Bronze
White Dessert	Messina Hof Angel Riesling Texas High Plains, 2006	Bronze
Zinfandel, Under \$15	Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Zinfandel, 2006	Gold

For more information about Texas wines and award winners, call the Texas Department of Agriculture at (866) 4TX-WINE or visit www.gotexanwine.org.

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