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**VENTURA LIMONCELLO WINS GOLD MEDAL
AT 2008 SAN FRANCISCO WORLD SPIRITS COMPETITION**

Ventura Limoncello, a local Ventura owned and operated company took the 2008 Gold Medal honors at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition. The official and wonderful news came today to owners James and Manuela Carling.

James Carling full of enthusiasm and joy stated: “After working on this labor of love of developing and bottling this very special family limoncello recipe and having just launched it into the market; this could not have come at a better time.” The Ventura Limoncello Company began just last in April in 2007 with the goal of becoming the premier US produced Limoncello liqueur. Husband and wife team James Carling and Manuela Zaretti-Carling have been producing Limoncello for personal use for over 10 years, combining Manuela’s generations-old Italian family recipe with lemon varietals grown in Ventura County, CA.

Carling notes: “Our Limoncello process follows the traditional methods still used in Italy today, and the product is hand-crafted.” Lemons are individually selected from local Ventura growers and are hand peeled. They are then infused in pure distilled spirits until the oils are extracted for color and flavor.

Ventura County is the premier lemon growing region in the US. The Ventura Limoncello Company is working with local lemon grower The Petty Ranch in Ventura County to source the lemons. This grower’s family has been farming in Ventura County since the 19th Century and first planted lemon trees in the area over 60 years ago.

Except for the bottles, which come from Italy, James and Manuela’s goal is to have a majority of their vendors and suppliers come from Ventura County and Southern CA. Carling says they are “keeping the company and product as SoCal as possible.”

The Ventura Limoncello Company is producing 2 styles of Limoncello: Originale (original) and Crema (creamy) coming soon. Production of Limoncello Originale began in December, 2007. You can visit www.venturalimoncello.com to find out what restaurants and liquor markets are carrying the award winning Gold Medal limoncello.

The San Francisco World Spirits Competition judging was conducted March 15th and 16th at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel located in downtown San Francisco. Information about the San Francisco World Spirits Competition can be found at www.sfspiritscomp.com. Medal winners from this year's competition will be posted within 2 weeks. A listing of the top medals awarded will also be featured in the May 2008 issue of The Tasting Panel Magazine, a national beverage trade publication.

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