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**MARCHESI VINEYARDS SANGIOVESE WINS
DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL AT PREMIERE COMPETITION**

Marchesi Vineyards' 2008 Sangiovese won a Double Gold medal at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the country's largest, most competitive tasting contest, earlier this month.

The San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition was held in Sonoma County, California, with a week of judging concluding on January 8. Judges, consisting of 63 professional wine experts within the media, restaurant and hospitality, education, winemaking and retail wine industries, evaluated 4,913 entries. The number of 2010 entries broke the world record, maintaining the competition's status as the largest competition of American wines in the world.

"We are thrilled to receive this honor," relays owner Franco Marchesi. "This is one of the most important wine competitions in the U.S. The number of entries, and its location near the Napa Valley makes competition formidable. For our small winery to receive Double Gold here is like getting many, many medals."

Marchesi Vineyards is a relatively new winery established in Hood River, Oregon. In 2003, Marchesi began planting his favorite Northern Italian grapes on his Columbia Gorge land, where the latitude is exactly the same as his hometown in the Piedmont region of Italy. The vintner currently sells six different Italian-style wines.

The Marchesi Sangiovese, called “Emma,” was one of two Double Gold winners out of a total of 59 medal-winning Sangiovese wines: one Best of Class, two Double Gold, eight Gold, 33 Silver, and 15 Bronze medals were awarded in the Sangiovese class. The Marchesi Sangiovese retails for \$28.

“Based on the results of this competition, I feel proud to say Marchesi Vineyards produces the best Sangiovese in the Northwest,” Marchesi says. “We purchase these grapes in Milton-Freewater, where the climate is preferable for Sangiovese grapes.”

Award winners will be featured at a public tasting on February 20 at Fort Mason Center’s Pavilion in San Francisco. Complete results of the 2010 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition can be found online at www.winejudging.com. For more information about Marchesi Vineyards, visit www.marchesivineyards.com.