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**About Marco and Ann Marie Borghese, co-owners of
Castello di Borghese Vineyard & Winery, Cutchogue, Long Island, New York**

When Marco and Ann Marie Borghese first visited the Long Island wine country on a Thanksgiving weekend in 1998, it was love at first sight. For Marco, the sweeping, bucolic farmlands, green fields and agriculturally diverse nature of the North Fork recalled the Tuscany of his youth, where for centuries his noble family had farmed and made wine. Conversely, for Ann Marie, the abundant array of colorful flowers and fauna amid the vineyards were a stark departure from the urban landscape she knew and loved in Philadelphia. Then again, she had always wanted to try her hand at gardening.

Marco Borghese's life in America began in Philadelphia in 1969, where, after completing his studies at the University of Rome, he established a home office for his international import/export business. It is here where he met Ann Marie, a graduate of the University of Delaware, where she studied French, marketing and jewelry design. Marrying in 1985, the couple quickly became a part of Philadelphia's legion of successful young urban professionals, with Ann Marie establishing her own jewelry salon and becoming active in the city's charity fund raising events. Marco, despite his continual world traveling, quietly longed for a career that would keep him closer to home. He began to explore new challenges, searching for an opportunity that would allow him to take advantage of his business skills and experience growing up amid the olive trees, orchards and wine growing region of his native Tuscany, Italy.

When friends informed the Borgheses that Long Island's oldest, most venerable winery was up for sale, they recognized it as the potential opportunity of a lifetime and quickly visited the Cutchogue vineyard. In 1999, they purchased the winery from Alex and Louisa Hargrave, changing the name to Castello di Borghese Vineyard and Winery. A new era was born.

In their role as Long Island winery owners, the Borgheses bring a wide range of talent and experience to the North Fork. As overseer of the vineyards, as well as the winemaking, Marco has applied the values he learned working on his family's estate, emphasizing quality and hand craftsmanship and utilizing classic agricultural techniques. Marco is committed to advancing the wines of Castello di Borghese beyond where the previous owners left off.

Equally involved in the winemaking process is Ann Marie, whose discerning palate and fine aesthetics is integral to the blending and development of Castello di Borghese wines. Ann Marie also oversees all advertising, marketing and promotion and has played a key role in updating Borghese's look and image, including the simple yet elegant wine labels, the winery and the tasting room. Ann Marie has established the Borghese Gallery consisting of the Terra Cotta Room and Main Gallery where the work of artists is continually on display. Borghese is also an active live music supporter and has initiated a series of classical concerts and Italian operas; all performed live at Castello di Borghese.

The Borgheses have enthusiastically embraced their new home and community. Marco has volunteered his business and marketing experience, by serving as Vice President, President and Board member of the Long Island Wine Council. Ann Marie has chaired the Council's special events committee and is a major supporter of Chamber of Commerce events.

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