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**SANTA TERESA TO CELEBRATE 90 YEARS**

Giumarra Congratulates the Podesta Family for Almost a Century of Growing Excellence

LOS ANGELES, CA - October 5, 2006 – Santa Teresa, a proud grower of The Giumarra Companies, prepares to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> year in 2007. Since the company was originally established in 1917, the company has supplied both Mexico and the US with fresh, wholesome tomatoes, cucumbers and bell peppers.

Mr. Don Corsaro, President of the Giumarra Companies said: “They have been a marvelous family to work with and we treasure the partnership we have built over the past 40 years” Mr. Corsaro also noted the parallels between the Podesta and Giumarra families, whereby both emigrated from Italy a little over 100 years ago and built their lives around farming: the Podestas in Culiacan, Mexico and the Giumarras in the San Joaquin valley in California.

The Podesta family’s roots stretch back to 1907 when Julio Podesta emigrated from Genoa, Italy to San Francisco, where he worked on the produce market for ten years. In 1917 Julio moved to the Culiacan Valley in Mexico’s state of Sinaloa where he started growing tomatoes for export to the United States. Shortly thereafter Julio married Ms. Natalia Reyes and together they had four daughters.

In 1948 the Mexican government built a nearby dam to bring modern irrigation technologies to the farmers in the region. The Podesta family relocated to this region of the Culiacan Valley, where they named the location ‘Santa Teresa,’ after their youngest daughter, and hence the creation of the ‘Santa Teresa’ brand.

After eighteen years of growing and harvesting wholesome vegetables, Julio Podesta passed the business to one of his daughters, Elva (Vita) Podesta. Five years later Vita Podesta formed a business alliance with Don Corsaro of The Giumarra Companies and began to export their crop through Nogales, Arizona.

Although Julio Podesta passed away in 1973, the Podestas are still proud to continue the heritage and tradition started nearly 90 year ago. Today the Santa Teresa brand is managed by the Lopez-Podesta brothers, the grandsons of Julio.

**About The Giumarra Companies**

The Giumarra Companies is a leading international network of fresh produce growers, distributors and marketers that encompass a world of freshness. Since its inception in 1922, the Giumarra group of companies has prided itself on a longstanding commitment and tradition of quality, reliability and innovation to feed the world in a healthy way. For more information: [www.giumarra.com](http://www.giumarra.com).

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