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MEZZETTA BRAND Specialty Olives, Peppers and Gourmet Foods "Don't Forgetta Mezzetta"

G.L. Mezzetta, America's favorite brand of specialty olives and peppers, was founded in 1935 by Giuseppe Luigi Mezzetta, an Italian immigrant living in San Francisco's North Beach. He and his son began importing small quantities of olive oil and specialty foods from Italy and selling the products to local restaurants. Eventually, the business grew and the Mezzetta began producing food products under its own label.

The Mezzetta brand focuses on the array of foods one might expect to find in an Italian pantry. These staples of the Mediterranean diet include Extra Virgin olive oil, many different varieties of olives, roasted peppers, pickled vegetables, sun-dried tomatoes and other specialty items which offer convenience and add flavor and nutrition to meals. Mezzetta is the top brand of Peperoncinis (the petite, piquant green pepper) and roasted bell peppers. Mezzetta specialty olives hold eight of the top ten spots on the list of the best-selling olives in the U.S.* Some of these popular varieties include Greek Calamata Olives, Garlic Stuffed Olives, Jalapeño Stuffed Olives, Super Colossal Spanish Queen Olives and Martini Olives.

Mezzetta owns and operates a state-of-the art production facility in the Napa Valley. Here, imported olives and other products from around the Mediterranean are received, processed and packed in glass jars and shipped across America and Canada. The company also sources and processes truckloads of peppers picked at local farms and rushed within hours to the Mezzetta plant. The so-called "fresh pack" season parallels the grape harvest in wine country and ensures the freshest, highest-quality final product. The majority of Mezzetta products are all natural and contain no preservatives. The Mezzetta plant is an organic-certified facility (Quality Assurance International) and the company produces an organic version of Pitted and Whole Kalamatas, Sliced Hot Jalapeño Peppers, and Fire-Roasted Red Peppers.

G.L. Mezzetta, Inc. is a family-owned and operated business, now managed by fourth generation family member Jeff Mezzetta, the great grandson of Giuseppe Luigi. The company continues its mission to provide consumers with quality and convenience in healthful, delicious specialty foods, widely available and at a reasonable price. Look for Mezzetta in the specialty condiments and sauces aisle in retail grocery stores nationally and on the company Web site at www.mezzetta.com.

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