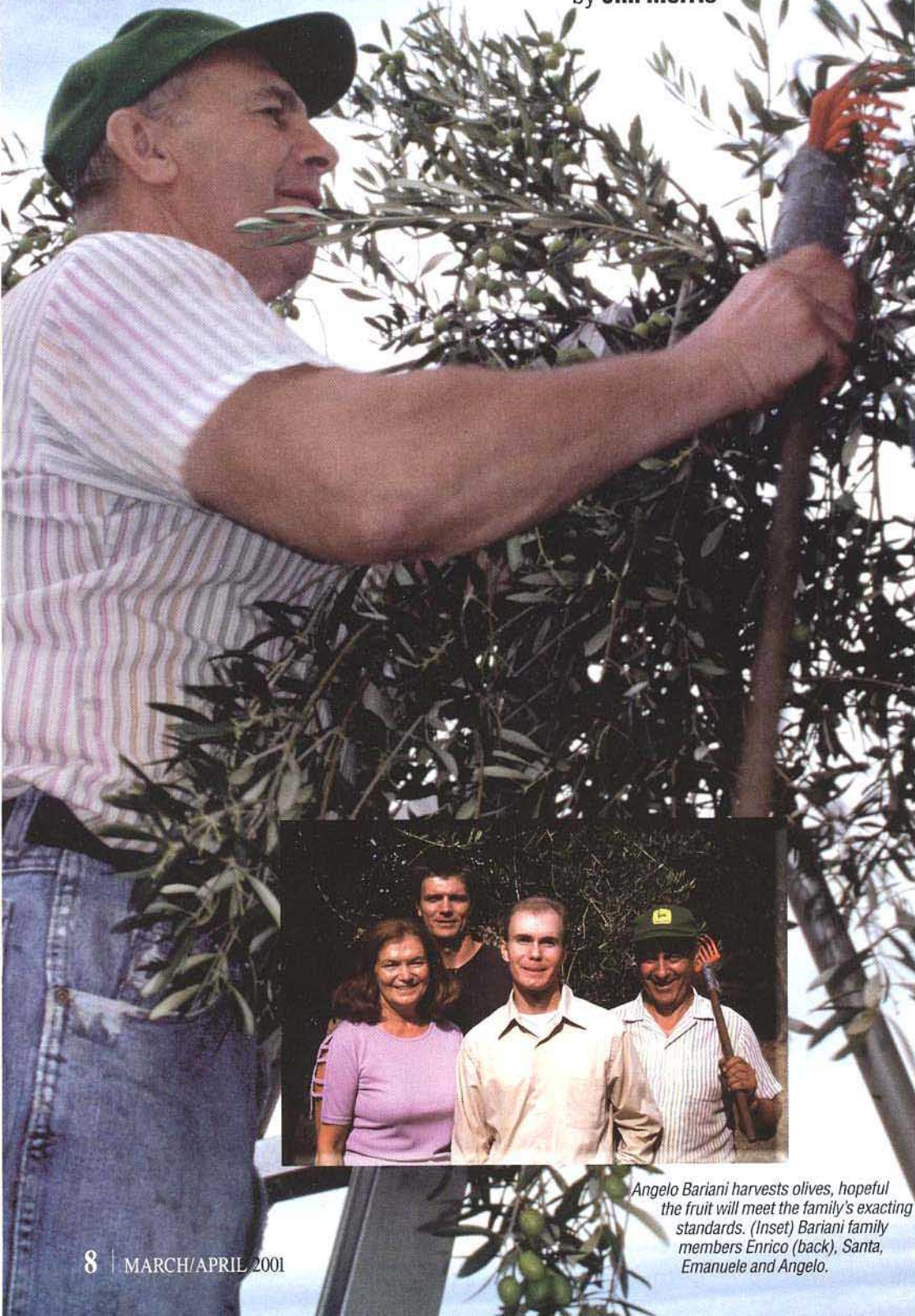


BARIANI FAMILY

finds success with olive oil

by **Jim Morris**



Angelo Bariani harvests olives, hopeful the fruit will meet the family's exacting standards. (Inset) Bariani family members Enrico (back), Santa, Emanuele and Angelo.

Thirteen years ago Angelo and Santa Bariani packed their hopes and belongings and took their four boys from the small town of Voghera in northern Italy to start anew in California.

Their background was in the construction business, but a new endeavor flourished following a simple act of kindness—sharing the fruits of their hobby of making olive oil. Little did they know their search for the American dream would lead them to stardom in the culinary world.

As if it were torn from a Hollywood script, the family foray into olive oil had a humble beginning. Family members initially made the oil as a pastime, producing just four gallons their first year. After passing out the oil as gifts to friends and neighbors, it was so well received the family began selling it at farmers' markets. Demand so overwhelmed the family that they opened a business in 1995. Production, reputation and interest in the oil have soared ever since.

The Barianis make an olive oil that has throngs of fans from several countries and enjoys a reputation second to none. They do it through passion, insight and dedication.

While the Bariani parents provide loving guidance, much of the farm labor, from picking to distribution, comes from their sons Sebastian, Emanuele, Enrico and Luigi, aged 24 to 35.

"Even a few years ago I would have never imagined we were at this point in our lives today," said Enrico Bariani, who mills the family's fragrant fruit.

In addition to his easygoing, jovial nature, Enrico exemplifies the family work ethic and intelligence. He has a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of California, Davis. Enrico is fiercely competitive. The family living-room sports more than 100 trophies won by him in several sporting competitions.

"I put a lot of effort into what I'm doing because I like competition," said Enrico. "I've been competing in sports activities most of my life and I like to measure myself with other people. When I make olive oil I try to make it as well as I can because there are other companies out there. Competing with them makes me better."

At first glance, the Bariani farm and homestead in rural Sacramento County looks peaceful and pastoral. A closer look reveals activity from sunup to sundown,