



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tina McKissick

e-mail: tomde@StoneChurchInfo.com - Web: www.WestchesterWinery.com

PO BOX 32 - Baldwin Place, NY 10505

Phone: 914.455.4272 - Fax: 914.455.4273

New Vineyard to Open at Hilltop Hanover Farm

Yorktown, NY May 3rd, 2007 – In a partnership with the County of Westchester, the Winery at St. George announced today it will be installing a new Vineyard at the County owned Hilltop Hanover Farm. Three varieties of wine grapes will be planted on approximately four (4) acres during the week of May 7th, 2007. Westchester’s newest Vineyard will provide the grapes for the full service winery and wine making operation planned for the Old Stone Church on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake, NY.

The Vineyard - The vineyard will be an integral part of the Westchester County’s Conservation and Natural Resource Center, located at the magnificent Hilltop Hanover Farm, just north of the New Croton Reservoir. The vintner intends to grow three varieties of organically produced grapes; 1) Cabernet Franc, 2) Noiret and 3) Seyval Blanc. The public will be invited to visit and learn about viticulture, wine making & wine tasting. Tina McKissick, the vineyard manager, said “the mission of the project is to advance environmentally sound organic agriculture; sustain open land initiatives; promote community education; and to enhance the cultural and esthetic attributes of these scenic parts of Westchester County.”

The Vineyard will be installed during the week of May 7th, 2007. Members of the press should contact Tina McKissick for exact dates.

The Winery - Grapes from the vineyard will be transported across town to the magnificent St. George Church, (aka The Old Stone Church on Rt. 6 Mohegan Lake NY) where they will be fermented, barrel-aged and lovingly coaxed into fine organically produced wines. The church will be open to the public for tours, wine tasting and “Sponsor-a-Vine” opportunities.

Westchester County Executive Andy Spano has hailed the winery as “the type of private investment that supports the mission of the Environmental Resource Center at Hilltop.”

Westchester County Legislator, Michael Kaplowitz, a sponsor of the experimental project, has described the venture as “exactly the kind of partnership we’re looking for.”

Several fundraising events will be planned in the near future. For example; “*Sponsor a Vine*” allows individuals and companies to sponsor and/or name a vine at the Vineyard. Proceeds from this event will support programs at Hilltop Hanover and several local charities. Details to follow ☺

Information on Hilltop Hanover Farm:

Westchester County acquired Hilltop Hanover Farm in 2003 as part of County Executive Andy Spano's initiatives to preserve open space and to protect drinking water. Its purchase was spearheaded by County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz, who represents the area where the farm is located.

The farm, which dates back to the 19th century, is on 183 acres on Hanover Street in Yorktown, with views stretching to the New York City skyline. The property includes a complex of buildings, fields, pastures and natural woodlands. It was the county's decision to turn the farm into an environmental resource center so visitors may experience locally grown produce and learn to protect the environment.

More... <http://www.westchestergov.com/planning/environmental/hhfarm.htm>

Information on The Winery @ St. George - aka - The Old Stone Church:

Saint George's Church was built in 1911-12 by Aimee La Farge Heins in memory of her husband George Heins. Saint George's Church was donated to the Archdiocese of New York in 1913. It functioned as a Catholic Church from the day of its dedication, May 23rd 1912, until 1963 when it was renamed Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton in honor of America's first native-born saint. In 1966, the parish moved to its present location in Shrub Oak, NY. St. George's Church is currently being restored.

More... <http://www.westchesterwinery.com>

New York Wine & Grape Foundation:

More... <http://www.newyorkwines.org/index.asp>

###