

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUNSET HILLS VINEYARDS SETTING THE PACE IN 2013

After bringing home several medals at the 2013 Finger Lakes International Wine Competition -- double-gold for its 2012 Traminette, silver for its 2012 Chardonnay and a Bronze for its 2012 Chambourcin -- Sunset Hills is winning medals in 2013 at a pace that exceeds its own record of 25 awards in 2012. The Finger Lakes International Wine Competition awards are significant. As the second largest wine competition in the United States, the competition had 3,505 entries representing all 50 states, plus 20 countries and four provinces in Canada.

Sunset Hills also earned one of 12 Gold medals for wines selected for the Governor's Case at the Governor's Cup Wine Competition, the most prestigious competition in Virginia, with the 2010 Mosaic – the first bottling of this wine. All together, the winery has won 93 awards for its wines since opening its doors in 2007.

They are about to score another milestone, this one on the environmental front. Sunset Hills is approaching 100 megawatt hours, of solar energy electricity production from the solar panels on the roof its Amish-restored barn and its wine production building. Co-Owner Diane Canney said, "We're making wine from sunshine in two ways; once with the growing of our grapes and the second with our solar panels producing the electricity we need to power our winery and tasting room. Indeed, we are proud to have combined a century old barn, with the latest technology, to produce the finest wines we can make"

According to Loudoun County's Energy Manager, Najib Salehi, "Sunset Hills is Loudoun County's largest producer of solar power. Before Earth Day arrives on April 22, they will surpass 100,000,000 watt hours, or 100 megawatt hours of solar output since the panels were installed two years ago. That saves the planet's atmosphere the equivalent of more than 70 tons of CO₂, and is equal to powering 10 homes annually from completely renewable sources. You can see our results at <https://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/mRhW14200>

Solar power runs Sunset Hills entire winery and winemaking operation, plus Sunset Hills produces enough power on sunny days to provide surplus, renewable energy back to NOVEC (Northern Virginia Electrical Cooperative). This is a significant accomplishment for clean energy and makes Sunset Hills the solar showcase of the Loudoun Tech Corridor. Nate Walsh, winemaker at Sunset Hills, said, "We love making great wine, and it's a good feeling to know that we have the largest solar installation in the County, as well as a constant movement toward more sustainable grapegrowing and winemaking."



Sunset Hills opened its doors in 2008, inviting customers to enjoy its wines inside an Amish-renovated antique barn that was in shambles before the renovation. Since then, they have become the most popular winery in Northern Virginia, achieving that goal in 2012.

“We are passionate about making great wine while being good stewards of the environment,” said Co-Owner Mike Canney. “I am a physicist by training who developed a passion for Virginia wine 15 years ago, to produce outstanding wine, on a historic farm, in Virginia’s technology corridor. We are very happy to be part of the Loudoun County wine community, combining beautiful vineyards and our agricultural heritage in the west, and with state of the art technology from the east.

For More Information, call Mike or Diane Canney at (540) 882-4560