



## WINERY OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2018

### SUNSET HILLS VINEYARD

*From the planting of the first vines, Mike and Diane Canney, Sunset Hills owners, had a vision of making fine wine of the highest quality in a manner gentle on the land.*



Sunset Hills Vineyard is a spectacular winery in Loudoun County and a favorite of Virginia Wine Lovers. It offers breathtaking mountain views, pastoral old-world style farm grounds, and a stunning Amish restored historic barn.



*Mike & Diane Carney, Sunset Hills Owners*

At Sunset Hills Vineyard, quality radiates in the “mosaic” of award-winning wines, sustainable farming practices, historic preservation, philanthropic pursuits, and exceptional customer service. Not surprisingly, for two consecutive years (2013 & 2014), Sunset Hills Vineyard’s 2010 Mosaic red wine has won the Gold medal and been chosen for the Governor’s Case in Virginia’s Governor’s Cup wine competition.

The first Sunset Hills harvest was completed in 2001, with more than six tons of Chardonnay picked and sold to local wineries. In 2004, the vineyard was expanded from three to seven acres, planted with Cabernet Franc and Viognier, two of Virginia’s signature varietals. Later the owners purchased an adjoining 1870 farm that was in significant disrepair. The barn and surrounding buildings were restored by Amish craftsmen, combining traditional craftsmanship with new energy efficient technologies, resulting in a stunning 8,000 square foot winemaking facility.

In November 2008, the Tasting Room opened to the public and within months, wines on the tasting menu were chosen for medals in an ever-growing number of national and international competitions. Expansion continued in 2009 when additional acres were planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Viognier and Petit Verdot. Three satellite vineyards were acquired in 2012 in order to maintain the commitment to estate grown fruit.

"Turning sunshine into wine is something we've been doing for a while at Sunset Hills," says Mike Canney. "Converting the winery over to solar power was the next step in continuing to utilize the natural resources we have available to us. We are proud to make great wine and protect the environment at the same time by practicing sustainable agriculture and responsible stewardship."



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**Sunset Hills Vineyard**  
**38295 Fremont Overlook Lane – Purcellville, VA 20132**  
**540-882-4560**  
**[www.sunsethillsvineyar.com](http://www.sunsethillsvineyar.com)**