

# Ellison Estate Opens New Tasting Room in Grand Isle VT

*New Family-run Farm & Natural Winery Helps to Redefine Wine in Vermont*

**Contact: Ernest Baynard (202) 550-1610**

**August 3, 2021 Grand Isle, VT**—[Ellison Estate Vineyard](#) announced the opening of its new Tasting Room to the public on the heels of its successful soft opening. The opening of the new facility, located on the vineyard overlooking Lake Champlain, represents a major step forward for the husband-and-wife team, Kendra and Rob Knapik.

“Opening the new Tasting Room represents an exciting milestone for us.” said Proprietor and winemaker, Kendra Knapik. “From the moment we purchased the property 3.5 years ago, we knew it was important to share this special place with others. I can’t believe it’s finally happening. We aim for our wines to be the truest expression of this beautiful place, and we are thrilled to share both our wines and farm with our community.”

The Tasting Room is located in the vineyard house with spectacular views of Lake Champlain and the western shore of Vermont and the Green Mountains. The Tasting Room will be open by [reservation](#) only every Saturday, (and Thursdays starting in August), through the end of August, unless harvest starts early! They will feature tastings, glass pours, and bottle sales, as well as cheese and charcuterie picnic plates. All of Ellison Estate’s small batch, dry, Old-World style [wines](#) are available for retail purchase at the vineyard when the tasting room is open (no appointment needed). Their wines can also be purchased online for curbside pick-up by appointment, and they ship to 37 states.

You can also find Ellison Estate wines at select restaurants like Hen of the Wood and Honey Road and wine shops listed on their [website](#). Reservations are available between 11:30am and 3:15pm Saturdays. Updates, details, and Thursday tasting room hours will be made available on their [website](#) and via social media (@ellisonestatevineyard).

“Ellison Estate Vineyard's new tasting room on the shores of Lake Champlain is a dreamy destination that feels like you've been transported to another place entirely. We enjoyed the gorgeous views while tasting with owners Rob, Kendra, and their knowledgeable team. We've already been back several times with friends to share a bottle and charcuterie plate amongst the vines and wildflowers. I highly recommend taking the trip!” said guest Julia Atherton.

Kendra and Rob Knapik founded Ellison Estate Vineyard in 2018 when they took a leap of faith and purchased an abandoned vineyard, (previously East Shore Vineyard), on a 50-acre farm in Grand Isle, Vermont. Kendra, a veterinary oncologist, and Rob, a physicist, wanted to build something generational for their family. Despite their unlikely backgrounds, the scientists are finding many of their skill sets well suited to restore the land’s health using organic and biodynamic farming practice. The couple has a strong commitment to regenerative agriculture, and have even started integrating a flock of sheep into their vineyard management. At harvest,

the grapes are processed in the family's basement winery in Stowe, where there is also a small tasting room at which intimate tasting events are held during the winter months.

“Kendra is a talented farmer,” Deirdre Heekin, of the highly acclaimed natural farm and winery La Garagista, says with pride. “It’s not a surprise that she dove deep into regenerative farming, and that brings her vineyard—one of the first viticultural parcels in the state—firmly into an era of sensitive and careful stewardship. All of that is reflected in her wines. She’s going to be a significant part of Vermont’s future reality.”

Ellison Estate Vineyard makes natural wine from one of the oldest and largest single plantings of grapevines in Vermont. All wines are made with native yeast fermentations and minimal intervention in the winery, which means that nothing is added or taken away during the winemaking process. Ellison Estate Vineyard wines are designed to achieve the purest expression of the Champlain Islands’ terroir.

“Our trip to Ellison Estate Vineyard and tasting room was such a delight! It was a beautiful and easy drive to Grand Isle and our time on property continued to be as such. The tasting venue sits perched above Lake Champlain, with gorgeous views of the lake, the vineyard and their sweet flock of sheep.” says Rebecca Leipter of Stowe. “The wines are delicious- I had no idea that such great wines could be produced in our northern climate... until now. Best of all, the experience was laid back and approachable. While my husband and I enjoyed the delicious wines and picnic charcuterie, our kids happily played in the field with friends. We can't wait to visit again!”

With Kendra’s family being originally from Alburg and growing up on the lake, the couple feels they have come home, and are finding so much joy building this business with their 3 young children in tow.

Ellison Estate Vineyard is a regenerative farm and gathering place that seeks to create inspired and alluring native Vermont wines and foster community.