

1870s church now home to a winery



To furnish the new Eremita Winery, owner Joshua Parker took cues from the historic church where it is housed. He also foraged for objects to recycle as building materials and pieces of décor. PROVIDED PHOTO

Owner aims for Old World feel in Lodi

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New York's newest winery, Eremita Winery, opened this week after a month-long delay caused by licensing and label issues.

The tasting room and gift shop at the Lodi, Seneca County, winery are in a 7,000-square-foot former Reformed Church, which Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian congregations dedicated in 1873.

Owner Joshua Parker gave his grandmother's maiden name, Eremita, to the winery, which originally was scheduled to open July 19.

Parker, a native of the Utica area who worked on large mill-work projects out of Florida for seven years, used local re-

DETAILS

The tasting room will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays at 2155 E. Church St. in Lodi, Seneca County. It will be closed on Mondays.

For directions and more information, go to EremitaWinery.com.

sources and reclaimed materials in renovating the building, while retaining its old wooden floors and stained-glass windows.

He said his former company worked on large-scale projects, such as New Meadowlands Stadium in New Jersey.

"When you work on these larger projects, there's a tremendous amount of waste," which bothered him, he said. "I really spent a lot of years pulling things out of dumpsters," such as wood, stone and even bars for a handicapped restroom.

"I'm not the hoarder sort," he said. "It just angers me to see waste. We live on a planet with finite resources."

Parker found uses for his saved items, plus sticks and logs he pulled out of Seneca Lake, as he gave the interior of the old church a "downtown Old World European feel, as if you're outdoors looking at a building."

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