

WHERE HISTORY TAKES ROOT AND GRAPES THRIVE

*The Journey of Saltwater Farm
and Kingdom of the Hawk Vineyards*

Written by Kevin Ashton



Tucked in the picturesque town of Stonington, Connecticut, Saltwater Farm Vineyard is more than a vineyard—it's a journey through time, where history, innovation, and exceptional wine come together. Spanning 108 acres, the property's story begins in 1653 when English settler Walter Palmer established a farm around the serene Wequetequock Cove. By the late 1930s, the farmland soared into the aviation era as William J. Foster transformed it into Foster Field, a buzzing airport complete with a hangar designed by John W. Lincoln, co-creator of the Quonset Hut. After World War II brought the airfield's operations to a halt, the hangar evolved from warehouse to restaurant and even a temporary home for squatters.

In 2001, the property found its true renaissance when Michael

M. Connery purchased it with a vision to honor its rich past. Preserving the grassy airstrip and reimagining the vintage hangar with architect Stephen Lloyd, Connery created a vineyard that blends rustic charm with industrial elegance. Today, the hangar stands proud with its silvery aluminum exterior, vaulted ceiling, and soaring timber trusses.

The vineyard cultivates six grape varieties across 15 acres, producing wines that beautifully capture the coastal terroir. From April to December, visitors can enjoy tastings on the hangar's mezzanine, overlooking the lush vineyards and the historic grass runway. With artisan cheeses and charcuterie to complement the wines, every sip becomes an experience. Beyond wine, Saltwater Farm is a sought-after venue for weddings and events, offering a

timeless setting where couples can create their own history.

Saltwater Farm Vineyard is a testament to the magic of preservation and passion, offering a memorable escape for wine lovers, history buffs, and anyone seeking an enchanting retreat. Cheers to a destination where every visit is unforgettable!

In addition to Saltwater Farm Vineyard, Michael and Merrily Connery expanded their passion for wine and architectural innovation by establishing Kingdom of the Hawk Vineyard in North Stonington, Connecticut. Acquired in 2018, this 50-acre property features a contemporary barn that pays homage to the area's agricultural heritage. The design incorporates steel beams, polished concrete, stone, and an iconic archway, reflecting elements of its sister vineyard, Saltwater Farm.

Kingdom of the Hawk cultivates several grape varieties, including Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Rosé, and Raptor Red. Visitors can enjoy wines by the glass or bottle, complemented by selections of craft beers. The vineyard also hosts live music events, enhancing the vibrant atmosphere. The venue's modern farmhouse aesthetic, with dramatic lines and large windows, offers a versatile space for weddings and private events. The open floor plan and breathtaking landscape provide a perfect canvas for memorable occasions. Kingdom of the Hawk Vineyard exemplifies the Connerys' dedication to creating spaces where history, architecture, and viticulture converge, offering guests a unique and enriching experience.

Visit saltwaterfarmvineyard.com | www.kingdomofthehawk.com