



CASTELLO DI BORGHESE

October 14, 2007

To the Town of New Paltz Zoning Board of Appeals,

Agriculture and farming is a vital element of the economic, cultural and historic climate of New York State. The New York wine industry is the 3rd largest in the country. It is a torch-bearer of agriculture/farming, with more that 250 wineries operating in all areas of the State.

In 1973, Alex and Louisa Hargrave planted the first commercial vineyard on Long Island. It was their vision and perseverance that initiated the industry we have today, arguably one of the fastest growing and influential wine regions in the country. In 1999, we purchased this historic winery operation and as Castello di Borghese has been a duly licensed Farm Winery in the Town of Cutchogue ever since. As such we have always embodied the essence of what it is to be a farm and an agricultural use. From the growing of grapes and other farm products, to the making of wine to the sales of wine in our on-site tasting and sales room, we follow not only the intent, but also the letter of the law.

In New York and in every other state in the country, the laws that allow for the establishment of a winery clearly define the production of wine as an extension of the agricultural process of growing grapes and/or other fruits. The law also specifically establishes that the sales of these wines through an on-site tasting room is a value-added progression of the agricultural process.

In our area many people come to taste wine, purchase their favorites and immerse themselves in the local agricultural scene. The questions they ask could be asked of any of our agricultural neighbors; "what else is growing locally?" or "where is the fish shop?" Guests want to buy wine and then buy other local agricultural products go home and invite their friends for dinner and share the local bounty. It is a scene that plays out time and time again in farming regions. Wineries are no different than dairies or corn fields – they are agricultural through and through.

Very truly yours,

Ann Marie and Marco Borghese
Proprietors