FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **March 13, 2012**   CONTACT: Jennifer Johnson 513-502-0123

Johnson Estate Winery: St. Patrick's Day Celebration
NYS's Oldest Estate Winery Celebrates with Pre-Release Tank Tastings of New Riesling & Green Hors D'Oeuvres

Westfield (NY) – Beer drinkers may celebrate the day with green beer, but Johnson Estate Winery has decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with "green" hors d'oeuvres; delicious "bites" inspired by the shamrock green and designed to pair with white, red and dessert wines. In addition, samples of the winery's newest vintage of Riesling will be offered – yes, straight from the tank!

And so, with the feeling of an early spring in the air, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17th, the winery will have complimentary samples of hors d'oeuvres and desserts on hand to pair with favorite Johnson Estate wines. Pairings for red wines will include Derby Cheddar Cheese, Oregano Pesto Toast, and Green Pea Pesto. White pairings include Asparagus Tart and Herbed Goat Cheese. Desserts have not been forgotten – with Pistachio Tuiles and Kiwi Cheesecake on hand to complete the green theme. A complete menu can be found on the winery's website at www.johnsonwinery.com.

This inaugural St. Patrick's Day will also be celebrated with tank tastings of the winery's latest and yet-to-be released vintage of semi-sweet Riesling. Samples of this estate-grown wine will be available for $4/glass. Johnson Estate produces two types of Riesling from its estate grapes, a dry and a semi-sweet. Both will be bottled this month and released later in 2012.

Johnson Estate Winery, New York's oldest estate winery, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. It is located two miles of Westfield, NY and its renovated tasting room is open year-round from 10a.m. to 6p.m. daily. The winery specializes in award-winning cold climate wines, including ice wines, Riesling, and other vinifera and American grape wines. More information is available at **www.johnsonwinery.com** or by calling **800-Drink-NY** (800-374-6569).