



M.A.Silva USA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

M.A. Silva USA Adds 100% Solar Power to Sustainability Efforts

Santa Rosa, Calif. - 100% of M.A. Silva USA's power is now generated through the newly installed solar panel array, at its Santa Rosa, California facility, completing another phase of its on-going commitment to environmentally conscious business practices. As the first company to earn both Sonoma Green Business Program and ClimateSmart™ certifications, this installation further reduces the company's impact on the environment. Along with actively promoting environmentally friendly forest management and social initiatives, this new solar array is just one of a combination of sustainability efforts practiced by M.A. Silva worldwide.



Since its founding 10 years ago, M. A. Silva USA integrated sustainable business practices into its long-term initiatives, and day-to-day operations. Every aspect of the business now incorporates a broad range of eco-friendly practices benefiting each of the supply chain, employee, and customer communities. "I am proud that our company has always been mindful of our impact on the environment," said Neil Foster, President and Owner of M.A. Silva USA. "We are fortunate that many of our customers are now partnering with us to take the next steps."

Consumer preference for cork-finished wine enables many sustainability efforts. Cork finished bottles remain the fastest growing segment of the wine industry. In contrast to screw caps and synthetic cork, both significant carbon producers, natural cork pulls CO₂ from the air as the tree grows, acting as a carbon sink.

Encompassing the entire product lifecycle, successful waste reduction and recycling efforts are practiced throughout the company. From stringent monitoring of processes, through



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re-purposing post-production scrap, company-wide efforts minimize manufacturing waste. Electric branding equipment planned for installation in May 2011 takes advantage of the available carbon-free solar power. Careful attention and tracking of supplies and paper have reduced landfill-bound waste to just a few cubic feet per week. Cork recycling and awareness programs with consumers turn used corks into compostable products without significant addition of carbon emissions for transportation.

Today M.A. Silva USA is looking beyond its own sustainability efforts, teaming with customers to address broader, more complex issues. M.A. Silva USA business partners are especially interested in all sustainability and their joint efforts should result in further reduction of green house gas emissions, greater business efficiencies, and higher quality.

About M.A. Silva USA

Based in Sonoma County California, M.A. Silva USA is a leading provider of premium natural wine corks, glass, and packaging to North American markets. Its certified quality-assurance program ensures that products provide unmatched visual, mechanical, and sensory characteristics along with impeccable customer service to winemakers seeking to produce the finest wine, sparkling wine, and spirits.

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