

Case study  
Root River Unwined  
Lanesboro, Minn.



# Renovating an old winery the eco-friendly way



## The story:

Lori and Randy Rakosnik left corporate America in search for something different. With a passion for wine and a vision for creating a space where people could relax, eat locally sourced food and enjoy wines from around the world, the Rakosniks found the perfect building in the quaint town of Lanesboro, MN. Jumping at the opportunity to open for the bustling, summer tourist season, they renovated the former winery, and Root River Unwined was born.

## The problem:

Purchasing an old winery seemed like the perfect place to call their own but it was evident the nearly 100-year-old building would need to be gutted and brought up to code. The two-story building posed additional challenges since the floors were concrete on both levels making it difficult to

configure the necessary duct work for a new HVAC system. The Rakosniks wanted to approach the renovation smartly, making decisions that supported their business model and also their future so they did their homework and interviewed contractors who could bring the most innovative solutions to the table considering cost, quality and energy efficiency.

“We were pleased to find a like-minded HVAC contractor in our interview process who prioritizes savings and energy efficiency like we do.”

—Randy Rakosnik, Co-owner of Unwined



**\$330**  
saved annually on  
natural gas bills\*



**\$1,050**  
received in rebates

\*Estimated annual savings calculated using 723 therms and fully-loaded gas cost of \$0.46/therm.

**Case study**  
Root River Unwined  
Lanesboro, Minn.

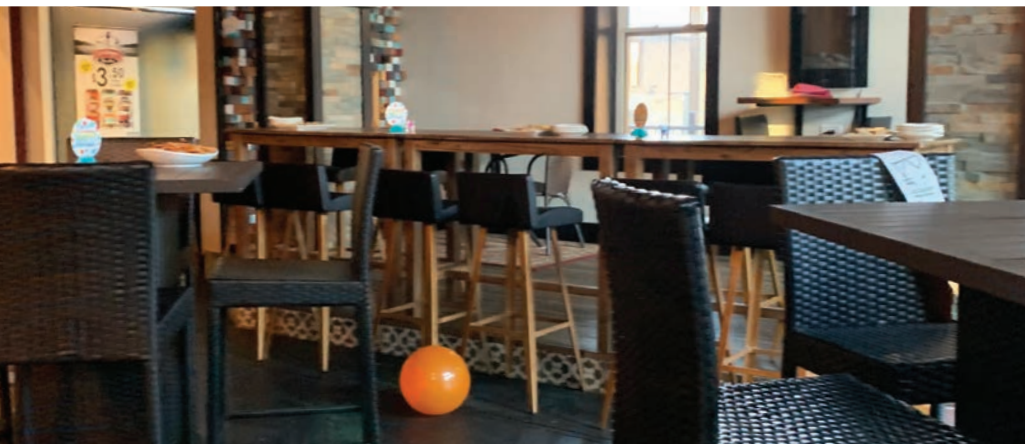
By partnering with Minnesota Energy Resources, Root River Unwined was eligible for the following **natural gas rebates amounting to \$1,050:**



**High-efficiency  
natural gas furnaces**



**Wi-Fi enabled  
thermostats**



**Trade allies make the difference**

Minnesota Energy Resources recognizes the great value trade allies can be as drivers and supporters of their energy rebate plans, in addition to being an excellent advocate for the newest, best and smartest products on the market. Partnerships with them can create a lifetime of savings, something Unwined and its customers can raise a glass to.

**The solution:**

HVAC contractor Canton Heating and Plumbing installed two energy-efficient furnace units and two Wi-Fi enabled thermostats providing Root River Unwined the ultimate flexibility to operate whichever system was necessary based on business hours and occupancy. In addition, they added media filters to the duct work that continuously filter the air.

**The results:**

The well-thought-out approach to the HVAC system gave the Rakosnik's peace

of mind that they were making smart, ecological decisions for both their immediate and future needs. The added filters throughout the duct work give the establishment the proper air ventilation that meets today's demands. In addition to cashing in on energy rebates from Minnesota Energy Resources, the ultra-efficient furnace units and Wi-Fi enabled thermostats offer additional monthly savings on their natural gas bills giving them more opportunities to grow and enhance their business.

**“We approach every project and situation with a tailored solution. We do whatever we can to help business owners capture savings from installing efficient equipment to redeeming available energy rebates.”**

*– Bill Richardson, Owner of Canton Heating & Plumbing*

For more information about rebates and programs from Minnesota Energy Resources, visit [minnesotaenergyresources.com](http://minnesotaenergyresources.com) or call **866-872-0052**.

