

# Crossing Vineyards and Winery celebrates its fourth birthday in 'style'

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GRAPEVINE  
CHRISTINE CARROLL

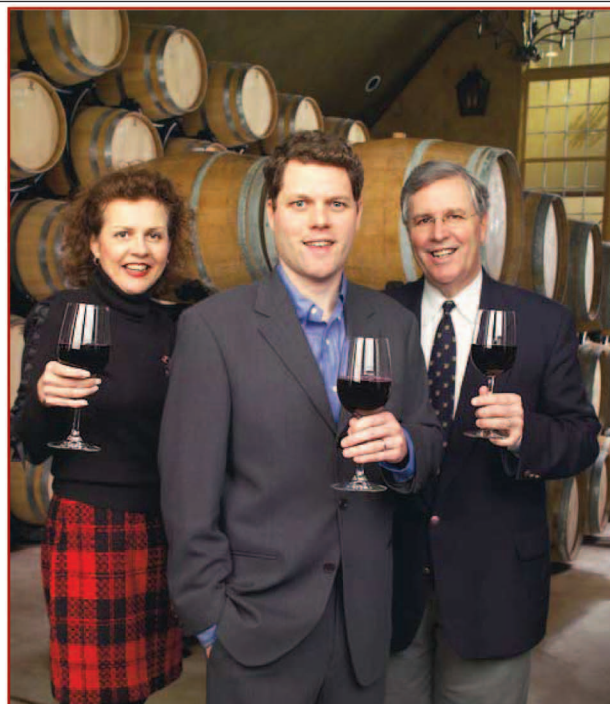
The icing on Crossing Vineyards and Winery's birthday cake this year will be its national television debut.

The local business's fourth birthday celebration will begin on Saturday, October 13, continue through Sunday, October 14th and culminate with an appearance on The Style Network's "Married Away" on Tuesday, October 16, at 9PM EST.

"Married Away" showcases

destination weddings at exotic and unique locations around the globe. This season's premier features the wedding of Anthony Beverly, son of famous R&B singer Frankie Beverly, and prominent entertainment attorney Heather Nelson. The Style Network chose Crossing Vineyards and Winery as the location for Heather and Anthony's rehearsal dinner.

In four short years Crossing Vineyards has managed to attract



L to r: Christine Carroll, Tom Carroll, Jr and Tom Carroll, Sr

national attention, but the business is hardly an overnight success. Credit for the "revolutionary" project goes to Tom Carroll, Jr., who at age ten, envisioned a vineyard on his family's twenty-acre farm in Upper Makefield.

After completing his studies at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, Tom Jr. re-located to California to pursue an acting career. In 2000 he returned to Bucks County to "establish his roots," as he put it, and to the plant the vineyard he had always dreamed of. In October 2003 Crossing Vineyards and Winery opened its doors to the public, and the ten year old's dream became a reality.

Crossing Vineyards' list of accomplishments in its fourth season is impressive, even for a business that's been 21 years in the making.

In November, 2006, shortly after its 3rd birthday, Crossing Vineyards' 2005 Chardonnay captured "Top Gold, Best of Class" at Starwine International in New York.

In this prestigious competition, Crossing's Chardonnay outperformed 115 wines from 11 countries and earned the respect of some of the most discerning palates in the world. Eleven of Starwine's judges are members of the distinguished Court of Master Sommeliers and seven attained their Master of Wine from the renowned Institute of Masters of Wine headquartered in London.

In 2007 Crossing added 15 more medals to its trophy case, including a Critics' Gold for '06 Chardonnay at the Critics Challenge in San Diego, California. This win brings Crossing's attention-getting award total to 50.

One of the winery's proudest achievements in 2007 was the addition of its Chardonnay to the wine list at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Philadelphia. "The Ritz's sommelier, Marika Vida-Arnold, discovered CVW's Chardonnay and wanted offer it at The Grill," said Tom Carroll Jr. "We couldn't be more proud of our affiliation with the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, whose brand is synonymous with quality."

Often featured in the local press, Crossing Vineyards made national news twice in 2007. The LA Times mentions the winery's 2006 Starwine win in an August 22 article on wine competitions. Vineyard and Winery Management calls Crossing "A New Star in Pennsylvania" in the Spotlight column of its March-April issue.

Crossing Vineyards was also featured in two regional publications. In the September 2007 issue of Pursuits Magazine, Crossing is included in an article on building a Pennsylvania wine collection. The historic house on Crossing Vineyards' label takes center stage in the fall issue of From House to Home. The article includes interior photographs of The David Barton Taylor House, built in 1830 by the son of Benjamin Taylor, one of Washington's oarsmen in his famous journey across the Delaware in 1776.

In 2007 Crossing continued its popular concert series and added a new sponsor, CitiSmithBarney. Dedicated to preserving open space in an area where farmland is diminishing, the Carroll family offers these events as a way of sharing the vineyard with the community. This season's artists appealed to a wide range of musical tastes, from classical to blue grass to jazz. Next year's program is scheduled to include a performance by The New Jersey Opera Company.

Crossing Vineyards also added new courses to its Wine Institute program, including a class on pairing wine and chocolate, offered in cooperation with corporate food giant Hershey. Other new courses include Understanding Wine Lists and Labels and Wine Tasting for Moms.

The decision to "Go Green" marked another important milestone. In 2007 Crossing Vineyards launched a recycling program, began electronic transmission of learning materials for all workshops and classes, and planned for the installation of a state-of-the-art solar energy system. The company's objective is to protect the environment by reducing fossil fuel consumption, with the eventual goal of using solar power to supply 100% of the vineyard's energy needs.

If you question The Carrolls on Crossing's most important accomplishment in 2007, they will tell you about its fund raising program, which supports dozens of local charities. "We've enjoyed a good quality of life in Upper Makefield Township for the past 21 years," says Tom Carroll, Sr. "We want to give back."

And they hope to continue giving. In style.

On Saturday and Sunday October 14 and 15, the public is invited to join the ownership and staff of Crossing Vineyards and Winery in celebrating its fourth successful year. Festivities will include free gifts with case purchase, live music by The Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet (1-4 PM on both days) and a drawing for a grand prize worth \$1000, a VIP Wine Tasting for 8 people (no purchase required).

For more information call 215-493-6500, ext. 19 or visit Crossing Vineyards website: [www.crossingvineyards.com](http://www.crossingvineyards.com)

*Christine Carroll is a wine educator and one of the principals of Crossing Vineyards and Winery. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Wine Association's Board of Directors, Penn State University's Enology Program Advisory Committee and is the Secretary of the Bucks County Wine Trail. You can contact her at [info@crossingvineyards.com](mailto:info@crossingvineyards.com).*