

A Family Endeavor

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grapes from vinifera varieties are in biggest demand and command the highest price, they are not as hardy and productive in all areas, so the Carrolls decided to experiment.

"Grafting European vines onto different rootstocks enable us today to realistically and economically consider planting these varieties," said Tom Jr..

Part of the hard work was digging holes for the six-inch twigs, which arrived in April and were planted by hand, which translated into more than 4,500 holes — and days of hard labor. The tiny plants cost \$1.50-\$4, depending on rooted versus grafted and the variety of the plant. The plants came from California, New York, and Canadian nurseries.

"Another big part of the process is finding good nurseries," said Tom Jr..

"You have to be careful about putting in clean stock," said Chris.

Additionally, to ensure a successful planting, the entire 20-acre property is enclosed by 8-foot galvanized woven-mesh deer exclusive fence.

Making A Niche

As for marketing, "the key is finding a variety to make a niche to get on the world scene," said Tom Jr.. "that will come from more years of grape growing and more vineyards."

The historic property, along with the charm of the converted barn area, will lend itself to marketing the wine, they believe.

"With that history, we're going to stay with American



Tom Carroll Sr. surveys progress on the vineyard and winery site. "After years of hard work, it came together and bloomed into this — it's an amazing thing to see happen."

roots," said Tom Carroll Sr. "Marketing will follow through with American history. We have a commitment to Americana concept in our brand."

Sheds used before as run-ins for the horses now house equipment, and the barn's stalls have been converted to an area for tasting and wine sales.

The Carrolls are scheduled to plant an additional 10 acres next year. According to the Carrolls, the average size vineyard in the U.S. is five acres, while the average size vineyard in Europe is three acres. They believe that this proves that the endeavor is viable for a farmer with limited land.

Additionally, since grapes thrive in low-moisture situations — even thriving during the drought — means that a crop of grapes could offset other more rain-dependent

crops that have not done as well during the growing year, they said.

Grapes will experience disease pressure in a wet summer, in fact.

Carroll Sr. hopes their operation would be considered a model for helping to offer a viable alternative to using land as opposed to development.

No Shortcuts

Quality is a focus of their efforts, said Chris. "It's all we're about. We have not taken any shortcuts. There is no real shortcut if you want to do it the right way. We're making the harder, more expensive decisions," she said, but the family considers the extra outlay and patience to be worth it.

Not using the first two years of grape harvest, for example, means that although those two crops are lost, growth of the vines and roots

are encouraged. The plants can produce — although perhaps in diminishing quantity — for 35 years, according to Tom Jr..

"We are convinced and committed to the fact that you can produce wonderful quality grapes in Pennsylvania. We know it's so, we believe it's so, and we're putting our money where our mouth is," said Chris.

One aspect of grape growing that "appealed to me is the aspect of community and family — doing it on the property that I grew up on," said Tom Jr..

"I will not get bored by this," said Tom Jr. "It involves so many disciplines.

"I don't think it (vineyard and winery management) will ever get easy. It just happened that I found something that I love to do," said Tom Jr.

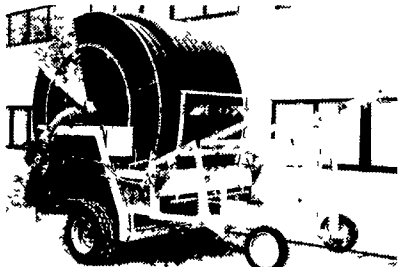


Tom Jr. peers into vats newly filled with grapes from other growers in the area. The vats are insulated with a cooling jacket that allows for refrigerated solution to run inside the vat and control the temperature to the wine. This changes the rate of fermentation. "There's no stomping going on here," said Chris Carroll.

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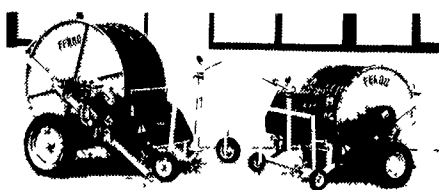
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ROVATTI SLURRY PTO DRIVE PUMPS

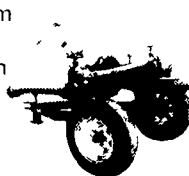
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