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CROW VINEYARD & WINERY TO WELCOME NEW WINEMAKER, MICHAEL ZOLLO

KENNEDYVILLE, MD | MAY 2017 – Crow Vineyard & Winery welcomes **Michael Zollo** as the new Winemaker of their family-owned Eastern Shore winery. Zollo will commence his roll on June 1st, 2017 and stated *“after touring the facilities, meeting the family, tasting the wines, staying at the wonderful Bed and Breakfast, and sampling the cuisine, I knew the Crow Vineyard & Winery would be a good fit for me!”*

Zollo comes from a long line of home winemakers. His grandfather and great grandfather all crafted wines in their basement and their creations played important roles in family meals. When his grandfather passed away, Zollo took on the family tradition. After seven years as a home winemaker in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, he had the opportunity to go to California to pursue his hobby and passion professionally. Through a family connection he was put in touch with Henry and Janet Coufos, owners of a boutique winery in the Sierra Foothills that specialized in Rhone varietals. Zollo worked two wonderful years at Coufos Cellars in Rough and Ready, California and produced their first double-gold winning wine, their *2013 Viognier*. Coufos Cellars taught Zollo the direct connection and influence between land and grapes. He continued his studies under the tutelage of Jacques Mercier at Solune Winegrowers.

During his time in Grass Valley, Zollo became a charter member of a tasting group in the area and started judging wine at the Bottleshock Open. Through an introduction at the Bottleshock Open competition, Zollo met Robert Hodgson and was offered the head winemaker position at Fieldbrook Winery, the oldest established winery in Humboldt (1976). After one season with Fieldbrook, the owner became ill and a family transition in the business led to a job hunt.

Zollo looked east and met the Crow Vineyard team in mid-April 2017. *“I am enthusiastic to be named Winemaker at Crow Vineyard and look forward to establishing the Chesapeake Bay Area as the next great wine region”*, Zollo tells us. Zollo is looking forward to working with John Levenberg and exploring new techniques for the betterment of Chesapeake wines. He loves to sing in the winery, especially while cleaning tanks because of the amazing acoustics. Zollo is also thrilled to return to the East Coast, where his family still resides in Rochester, New York. His brother is an assistant winemaker in New Jersey and they both look forward to a winemaking reunion.

Located in the rural heart of Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Crow Vineyard & Winery is Kent County’s first winery. Family owned and operated, they embrace the heritage and traditions of Crow Farm and their wines embody the simple elegance of a working pastoral landscape. The family also runs a Farmstay B&B and sells all-natural grass-fed beef. For more information visit CrowVineyardAndWinery.com.

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Photo Caption: *Michael Zollo, Crow Vineyard & Winery’s new winemaker.*