

# Weddings of the year

*In our annual feature, we peek inside the celebrations of four couples*

**BY CARALEE ADAMS**



PHOTO BY JANA SCOTT



# Vineyard Vows

*A Gaithersburg couple infused a sense of humor and fun into their celebration at a winery in Virginia*

**THE COUPLE:** Caroline Umosella-Marinos (maiden name Umosella), 32, grew up in Olney and graduated from Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac. She works in digital advertising for Single Grain. Cory Marinos, 30, is from Florida and works as a physical therapy assistant at Manual & Sports in Rockville. They live in Gaithersburg.

**HOW THEY MET:** In 2015, the two were introduced by a mutual friend at the Wine in the Woods festival in Columbia, Maryland. Caroline was working at the festival as the director of marketing for a winery, and Cory was volunteering as a wine pourer with a friend. "I thought he was hilarious, super nice...very 'go with the flow,'" Caroline says. A month later,

the two spent time together with friends in Ocean City and the sparks flew. "It was pretty immediate. We never left each other after that," Caroline says. It wasn't until later on that the couple realized through a memories app on Caroline's phone that their paths had first crossed on Halloween in 2013 at Union Jack's (now closed) in Bethesda, where they had randomly taken a selfie together.

**THE FIRST DATE:** They met for brunch at MoCo's Founding Farmers in Potomac. "I had been talking about how much I loved chicken and waffles and I wanted to take her there," Cory

says. The next day they went to rio in Gaithersburg for brunch, then walked around and talked, and later had dinner. "It was one of those dates that turned into a whole weekend event," Caroline says.

**THE PROPOSAL:** After four years of dating, Caroline was convinced Cory was going to propose while they were on a trip to Seattle. "By convinced, she means expected," Cory says. "She sent me an article with the top 10 destinations in Seattle to get engaged." Caroline did her hair and makeup every day, wore cute outfits, and waited while moments like sunset at the Space Needle came and went. Cory instead surprised her the next weekend at one of her favorite places—Assateague Island. "I wanted to come out of left field and really get her heart going," Cory says. After a day at the beach, he got down on one knee on a boarded pathway. "I'm not dressed up, my nails are bro-

ken and then he just randomly proposes with a Ring Pop," Caroline says. Throughout their relationship, when Cory would say he was saving for a ring, Caroline always said she didn't need a ring—she just wanted to marry him and would say yes to a Ring Pop. He had a real ring at the beach condo.

**THE WEDDING:** Caroline and Cory planned to get married on June 12, 2020. Because of COVID-19, they rescheduled to Oct. 23, and then finally tied the knot on May 21, 2021. They cut their guest list from 170 to 85 to comply with safety restrictions and livestreamed the ceremony for those who couldn't attend.

**THE VENUE:** The festivities were held at Morais Vineyards and Winery in Bealeton, Virginia. They were married outdoors under a pergola and celebrated afterward in a ballroom that was decorated in dusty blue and rose gold.



**THE CEREMONY:** “My favorite part was the vows. Cory is a man of few words and was really nervous about writing his vows, but he did the best job,” Caroline says. Cory acknowledges that writing his vows was stressful: “She’s an incredible writer and wordsmith, and I knew I couldn’t compete with that.” But in the end, their sentiments overlapped. “She said she’d always be my cheerleader and I bust out laughing because I had the exact same line in my vows,” Cory says. “It was so coincidental and fitting for us.”

**A SENSE OF HUMOR:** “We are a very silly couple, always try to laugh, play pranks on each other, joke around, so we tried to infuse that into our wedding,” Caroline says. They knew that Gary Rutter, Caroline’s godfather, was the right choice to be their officiant when he showed up at the rehearsal dinner wearing an over-the-top pope outfit and a hat like Moira Rose’s from the *Schitt’s Creek* sitcom. He added just the right amount of humor to the ceremony, including a joke about Cory and Caroline getting married on their third wedding date. In a nod to the couple’s shared love of *The Office*, Caroline walked down the aisle to an orchestral version of the theme song from the popular television show.

**THE CAKE:** The Passion Bakery Cafe in Sandy Spring designed their cake, which included a custom topper—a scuba diver and a mermaid—that picked up on the couple’s wedding logo. The cake also featured an edible golden retriever that looked like their dog, Waffles.

**THE FIRST DANCE:** Cory and Caroline took dance les-



sons at Arthur Murray Dance Center in Gaithersburg and did a choreographed first dance to “Cheerleader” by Omi. Midway through one of many twirls, the unseasonably hot day and heavy ball gown caught up with Caroline, who recalls thinking: “This is not good.” Feeling queasy, she ran from the dance floor and Cory followed. She got

sick, but quickly recovered to enjoy the rest of the evening. “Luckily, the bridal party started dancing on the dance floor like nothing even happened. It turned out to be totally inconspicuous,” Cory says.

**GOOD TIMING:** The couple felt lucky to have their wedding in the “golden time” when

most people were eligible for vaccinations, and before the delta variant, Cory says. “It was definitely worth the wait. It hit all our expectations,” Caroline says. “One thing that COVID has taught us is that togetherness and being with friends and family is a gift. ...It really made everything sweeter and made us a lot more appreciative.”

**THE HONEYMOON:** The newlyweds spent 10 days at the Cocobay Resort on the island of Antigua, where they had a private villa and their own pool. They went snorkeling and discovered the fun of handheld sea scooters to propel them underwater.

**VENDORS:** Cake, The Passion Bakery Cafe; catering, The Chef’s Table; decor and florist, Electric Events DC; dress, Curvaceous Couture; event planners, Christine Ash, Danielle Fisher and Linor Shemesh of Save the Date LLC Events; hair, Nancy Kongsomboom; makeup, Sweet Virginia’s Beauty + Salon; music, ‘Round Midnight (Entertainment Exchange); photographer, Jana Scott; transportation, Coughlin Transportation; tuxedos, The Black Tux; videographer, Washington Talent Agency. ■