

La Cuesta de Enero

In January, we always find ourselves at the point wherein we have to dig ourselves out of what happened during December which is usually quite a lot of damage to the wallet you'd much rather forget about. I find that wine is an excellent companion for these endeavours and given the state of most budgets this month, I'd like to recommend two wines that dish up a great quality-cost ratio.

Thankfully, this being Southern Europe, this isn't a huge stretch and while there are most definitely outstanding wines in our little wedge of Spain, there are also great wines to be found for under 10€. I have to add that while these aren't sold by the liter, the tough times of January fully excuse hitting the "a granel" at your neighborhood shop with wild abandon as well.

Mas Rodó - Montonega 2014

This is a local name in Penedès for the Parellada grape which is one of the three typical grapes in Cava. Not often found on its own, this take on a varietal wine by Mas Rodó is surprisingly versatile and expressive. Fresh and lively with white blossom aromatics, it finishes long and while not carrying a good deal of structure, maintains great elegance overall. 8.50€

Celler de Masroig - Vi Novell 2015

For those who don't know the "new" wines of Catalonia, it's about time you had a taste. This Grenache, Carignan, and Syrah blend from DO Montsant has vibrant red cherry and strawberry notes in the nose with a medium body and a short, fresh finish. Nothing overly complicated, just direct fruit that maintains good acidity overall. To be consumed with any number of meals and done so before summer, lest the youthful glimmer of the wine fades. 5€