

Wines of Solidarity

Despite this being a rather mild winter, even for Mediterranean standards, it seems that once spring arrives, there is a change of heart for people and they are more open and giving. Perhaps it's for this reason that "solidari" or charity events start to pop up. It could also be that it's simply for the sake of getting some tax deductions, but let's give people the benefit of the doubt.

In recent years, the local wineries have taken to creating "wines for a good cause" with the premise being quite simple: buy the wine and the proceeds go to a specific charity. For some of the wineries it's the same one every year and for others, it changes. Whatever the case, I've had the chance to taste many of these wines and find them to not only be great in their motivation but also wines worth your euros.

Masroig Vi Solidari 2013

This is produced in the cellars from the village of El Masroig in DO Montsant. They're all labeled with various illustrations by the children of 21 different schools and this year the funds raised go to support treatment of childhood cancer. While you don't know which specific cellar's wine you're getting, the blend is a base of Grenache, Carignan, and Syrah for the most part which are all excellent grapes for the region. This particular bottle held rich red fruits as well as a touch of currant and dark prune. Overall medium acidity, medium body. New vintage available starting in at the end of May. 12€

Microscopi 2014

This wine was started by enologist and cellar owner Irene Alemany in DO Penedès to fund the purchase of a specific microscope at her local hospital. The first vintage worked so well that she's decided to continue making the wine with the proceeds going to benefit research in to the prevention of breast cancer. This vintage holds bell pepper and roasted vegetable notes along with dark fruits. Smooth and even in the mouth with a medium plus body and medium acidity alongside pepper notes that drift in to the finish. Now available. 9€