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When it comes time to pour wine at a local charitable event, Muns the word

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An abandoned vineyard about 20 minutes outside of downtown Los Gatos has been reclaimed and is now producing award-winning wines under the label of Muns Vineyard.

But when Ed Muns purchased the vineyard in 1988, it wasn't so he could make wine, but rather so he could construct a ham radio antenna reaching high into the sky. The vineyard has an elevation of 2,600 feet, with views that "kiss the sky."

Muns and his partner of 18 years, Mary Lindsay, have crafted a life from the land that not only keeps them busy but benefits the town of Los Gatos. Muns and Lindsay have become well known for bringing their wines down from the mountains and into town for charitable events.

"Since we don't have a tasting room, we're more open to interacting with people here," Muns said. "We want to focus on Los Gatos as our community. Doing charitable events is a way for us to give back."

And they do give back--again and again. For instance, when the Friends of the Library held fundraisers for the new library at Los Gatos Luxury Cars and the Toll House Hotel, Muns and Lindsay were there pouring. Likewise, the Los Gatos Police Foundation has benefited from their largesse, they've poured at the Los Gatos Plein Air gala and the four wine walks held in town, to name just a few.

"Since people can't come to us to taste our wine, we need to bring it to them," Lindsay said. "There's a lot of competition out there. That said, you grow

friendships, so you want to do it for your friends."

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Ed Muns and his partner, Mary Lindsay, have become well-known in Los...
(Photo by George Sakkestad)



Ed Muns and his partner, Mary Lindsay, have become well-known in Los Gatos for their philanthropy, pouring wine at many events in town such as fundraisers for the new library and the Los Gatos Police Foundation. Since their winery, Muns Vineyard, doesn't have a tasting room, the couple view their charitable efforts as a way to give back to the community while promoting their wine at the same time. (Photo by George Sakkestad)

Seems they have a lot of friends in town. "They're really nice people," said Tommy Jillo, who stocks Muns wines at Chicago Steak & Fish.

David Stonesifer, who has hosted Muns tastings at fundraisers held at his estate in town, echoed that sentiment, as did Teri Hope. As the producer of Jazz On the Plazz, Hope is grateful for the fact that Muns has been a sponsor since 2006. But while some Jazz sponsors are happy with their name in the program, Muns and Lindsay show up regularly to pour for patrons in the VIP area.

Muns Vineyard produces syrah and pinot noir wines, with the pinot winning Best of Appellation Gold Medals from AppellationAmerica.com in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

On average, the vineyard produces about 300 cases per year. There are 12 acres of pinot grapes being

cultivated and one acre of syrah. "We sell 90 percent of our grapes to other wineries," Muns said. "A lot of people will be doing tastings, and they know our name from other labels."

Muns and Lindsay say they're pleased with the reception their wines have received in Los Gatos. "The new Rootstock Wine Bar and Enoteca La Storia are examples of how Los Gatos has become increasingly wine-friendly," Lindsay said.

In addition to those establishments, the California Cafe and Restaurant James Randall have also carried Muns on their wine list.

Muns and Lindsay say they are a "mom and pop" winery, which is evident when Muns talks about a woman who called and asked how she could get their wine and he offered to personally deliver it to her.

Muns is a retired HP manager and Lindsay's background is in high-tech public relations. Both work the vineyard and events and are cheerleaders for their label and Los Gatos. "There are so many opportunities to participate in events that it makes sense for us to focus on Los Gatos," Muns said. "If we have 100 choices, I'd rather do 15 in Los Gatos."

Neither is shy about promoting other local winemakers, including Silver Mountain and La Rusticana, who also contribute to the town's nonprofit organizations. They estimate there are 15 wineries in Los Gatos. "People have become more aware how many local wineries there are, and as a result, there's more support now," Lindsay said.

In addition, Lindsay put together a group of vintners that promoted Santa Cruz Mountain Pinots at a recent seminar in Healdsburg and she is on the committee that sponsors Pinot Paradise, a regional Pinot festival that's held in March in Campbell.

Visit www.munsvineyard.com for more information.