

Nipomo artist's painting chosen for wine label

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Ethel Landers' painting sits next to a bottle of Mano Tinta wine bearing the image in a display celebrating its release in the Talley Vineyards tasting room. //Contributed

A Nipomo artist had cause to celebrate the recent release of the 2010 Mano Tinta wine. The label features one of her original paintings.

Ethel "Tink" Landers and some of her friends were guests for the release in the Talley Vineyards tasting room on Lopez Drive in Arroyo Grande.

Talley held an art competition in 2013 to select the label image, and Landers said her entry was the public's first choice.

Her painting depicts two farmworkers harvesting boxes of grapes from a vineyard against the familiar backdrop of hills east of Arroyo Grande.

Mano Tinta means "Red Hand" in Spanish, and the name was chosen to signify farmworkers' pride and commitment to their craft.

All grapes, materials and services used to make Mano Tinta wines are donated, and proceeds from the wine sales benefit the Fund for Vineyard and Farm Workers.

Established in 2004 by Brian and Johnine Talley, the fund provides grants to nonprofit organizations that assist San Luis Obispo County agricultural workers and their families.

Past recipients include Clinica de Tolosa, Raising a Reader, the Children's Health Initiative, the South County Boys and Girls Club and the San Luis Obispo County Literacy Council.

Some of the vineyards that have contributed to the production over the years are Sinor LaValle Vineyards, Ranchita Canyon Vineyards, Wolff Vineyards, Laetitia Vineyard and Winery and Talley Vineyards.

The goal is to establish an endowment of \$1 million to continue the support in perpetuity. To date, the effort has raised nearly \$300,000.

Landers said she feels blessed to have her art support such a good cause.

"I entered this contest in 2006, and even though I didn't win that year, my art was on display in the tasting room, and when a patron wanted my painting, I asked him to make the check out to the Fund for Vineyard and Farm Workers," she said.

"I feel we all are one big community, and what goes around comes around," she continued. "Mano Tinta is exceptionally tasty this year, so I encourage every wine lover to go to the tasting room and try it."

For more information, visit www.talleyvineyards.com or call 489-0446. To see more of Landers' art, visit <http://ethellanders.com> or call her studio at 550-0348 for a tour.

Posted Friday February 21, 2014



