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Local organic wine company aims to reduce hangovers

By Haley Jones hjones@thelancasternews.com Jan 17, 2023



Mary Anna Ossa owns Partners & Grapes, which distributes natural Spanish wines.

Partners & Grapes, based in Indian Land, is a private label wine company, founded by Mary Anna Ossa and Nathalie Vivas, and now operated solely by Ossa.

It imports and distributes natural Spanish wines, without added sugars or sulfites.

She was inspired to create her company after having one too many glasses of wine on vacation in Spain and dealing with the hangover consequences the next morning.

"I remember after a couple of glasses of wine, I said, 'Man, I have to stop because I know I'm going to feel terrible tomorrow because wine gives me such a bad headache,'" Ossa said.

After a few more glasses the next day, "I felt terrible."

That's when Ossa learned about natural wines, and dedicated several months to researching formulas, flavors and nutrition labels.

"I didn't know anything about wine," Ossa said.

"I didn't know anything about importing wine (from Spain). So I spent about a year just working out the federal license permits, state, county, all of those little details. I basically sat down on my computer and did research for six months."

Born in Venezuela, Ossa moved to the United States 23 years ago to attend graduate school in Charlotte.

Ossa said she "fell in love with the Carolinas, because there's something so special about the Southern hospitality."

She now lives in Indian Land.

Ossa was a stay-at-home mom for over 10 years and worked in sales and marketing for several years.

What makes Partners & Grapes different from other wine brands is the nutritional content of each bottle — each 6ounce glass has only 0.23 grams of sugar.

"Our wines are organic-certified; they're vegan-certified; they're keto-friendly," Ossa said.

"There's no added sugar, no added sulfites, no chemicals of any kind.

"Our vineyard doesn't use pesticides, they don't use fertilizers, and they don't even have tractors in the vineyard.

"Everything is done by hand, using minimal intervention farming."

Each bottle retails for \$27.99, and can be found in eight different store locations from Indian Land and Fort Mill to Rock Hill.

"When you buy Partners & Grapes, you're supporting someone's dream," Ossa said.

"The best part has been connecting with other business owners, especially women, here in South Carolina, because we have built this network, where we support each other and believe in each other. And that has been amazing."

Ossa said she does private wine tastings in different stores. Connecting with clients allows her to meet other women her age and encourage them to chase their entrepreneurial dreams, no matter their age.

"We're looking into expanding to North Carolina, Florida and Georgia this year.

"That's our big expansion plan," Ossa said. "In South Carolina, we are moving into Greenville, Charleston and Columbia.

"But again, I'm local. My goal is to reach as many people as I can here in Fort Mill, Rock Hill, Indian Land, Lancaster — all of those towns."

Ossa said she is proud to lead a woman- and minority-owned company and encourages other female business owners to connect with her and expand their networks in Lancaster County.

Haley