

09/09/09

Julie:

The wine arrived today just in time for the party this evening. This was my sister Jenni's 09-09-09 party. I don't know if you remember but back in 2002 we were kidding about having a two tutu party on 02-02-02 but she picked up on the idea and she's carried it on every year finding some way to wrap the date into a theme for the party. Since she's just become a wine drinker in the past couple of years she decided that the theme for 09-09-09 would be Oh Wine Oh Wine Oh Wine.

The guests for these parties are mostly her women friends ranging in age from 87 to 18 but the last couple of years she's invited husbands if they want to come since some of them were hearing great reports on these parties and were feeling left out. There were 6 or 7 men out of the 40 or so people there tonight. It was a beautiful evening and she had set up tables out in the yard with music and candles and food and wine available in the kitchen.

So the deal with the wine was that everyone who wanted to brought wine to drink at the party plus you could also bring wine to be entered into a drawing. Whoever won the drawing would get all the wines that had been contributed. There were 30 bottles of wine -- some of them very nice wines, others not so great. No real stinkers in the bunch. And no duplicates which was even more surprising.

I put my Julie LePla Zin on the mantle where the wines for the drawing were being displayed, put your cards next to the bottle, and then opened the other bottle to drink at the party. I was having a great time eating and visiting including renewing my acquaintance with some people I hadn't seen in literally decades. So I wasn't really drinking very fast. After awhile, I went back in to get a refill and the zin bottle was empty! I was surprised that it was gone since there were dozens of open wine bottles and I wouldn't have expected an unknown wine to be one of the first to go. But I was glad that someone else was enjoying it and just figured that I'll order some more soon.

OK, so it came time for the drawing. First, everyone who wanted to could get up and tell why they had brought the particular wine they did so that gave me a chance to tell everyone about my friend who owns a winery in CA and how the only way to get this particular wine is via the Web so be sure to pick up one the cards and check the website. Then my sister reached in the basket to draw the winning name.

Everyone waited with bated breath but then the woman who won said that she wasn't that much of a drinker so she'd like for everyone who brought a bottle for the drawing to take a different bottle home with them and she'd take one bottle for the one she brought and be happy with that. Everyone started to applaud but there was suddenly an explosion of noise from a table at the back and two young women -- both professionals in their early 30s -- started racing each other to the door. They were literally fighting to get in the house first -- laughing, of course -- and trying to push each other out of the way. I

happened to be inside just coming back out because I had gone in to use the restroom and they came bursting through the door racing each other to get to the bottle of Julie LePla Zinfandel. It was all in fun, of course, and I suspect they'll actually end up sharing it but it turns out that they were the ones who had drunk up the bottle that was open and they loved it.

So there you have it. Thirty bottles to choose from and two of the sharpest, coolest women in Orrville, OH were literally fighting over the Julie LePla Zin. I sure hope they order some more from you.

Cheers! Luanne