

TOM SHIELDS

SCOTLAND won a silver medal last week. Pamela Geddes from Bridge of Earn got silver in the awfully prestigious International Wine Challenge for her El Gordito red. Pamela now lives in Barcelona and has her own wee winery in the Catalan countryside. I have known Pamela for 10 years or so and I like to think I did my bit in winning silver for Scotland.

I lend a sympathetic ear as she tells me of the hassles of doing everything herself, from picking grapes to packing boxes. I do more than my share when it comes to tasting the output. I am always available to discuss what kind of dark chocolate goes best with La Pamelita, her trademark sparkling red wine. I selflessly bring back to Scotland many free samples of El Gordito, La Pamelita, and Rosita (her rosé) to share with Scottish restaurateurs. I thought El Gordito ("the wee fat one") might have been named after me in recognition of my unstinting support. But that honour goes to her brother Gordon. It's nice to keep things in the family.

