

"Tocat per l'Est", a solidarity wine for Ukraine, now on sale

A limited-edition charity wine of only 100 bottles called "Tocat per l'Est" (Touched by the East in Catalan) has just gone on sale to raise funds for Ukraine. It is a monovarietal Grenache wine made with high-altitude grapes from the village of Porrera in the Priorat region of Catalunya. Fully 100% of the proceeds will go to the humanitarian aid organization [Rebel Volunteers](#) located in the Mykolaiv region in Southern Ukraine.

Recently the news has been dominated by the water and electricity cuts in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv and other parts of the country that have been caused by Russia's attacks on key civilian infrastructures. The liberation of the Kherson region that was under Russian occupation has however shown that there are also other problems in addition to electricity, such as the lack of drinking water or proper telecommunications. The Mykolaiv region also in the South has been without drinking water for over six months due to a deliberate attack by Russian troops that destroyed the pipelines supplying the city, an act that is considered a violation of international humanitarian law. Since then, its inhabitants have had to supply themselves with water and other basic necessities through humanitarian aid organizations.

This area of southern Ukraine where Mykolaiv is located, and in fact this entire area around the Black Sea is where most of the country's vineyards and wineries are concentrated. While perhaps less known than other countries in Eastern Europe, it was a sector that before the Russian invasion was growing and had higher production totals than Piemonte in Italy or Languedoc in France. Unfortunately, this area between Odessa and Crimea is not only strategic because of its fertile soils and vine cultivation, but also because of Russia's military interests. Since the occupation of Kherson, Mykolaiv has received a large number of displaced persons from there and has also become a strategic target due to its important port among other reasons. Now, with Kherson's liberation, it is clear there is a great deal of work that needs to be done in this region at a local level.

This wine "Tocat per l'Est" is a Grenache garage wine produced in 2019 in the Priorat region as part of a series of experimental microvinifications under the [Quel Celler](#) project. During the harvest of that year, a couple of friends from Mykolaiv, Vlada and Sergey, visited me in the Priorat and collaborated in the winemaking process by stomping the grapes with their feet, as was done traditionally and thus the wine became "touched by the east". Currently, Vlada, Sergey, their 6-year-old daughter and their parents are all refugees forced into living outside of Ukraine. This wine is a tribute to them as well as the millions of Ukrainians forcefully displaced by this senseless war of aggression.

Rebel Volunteers is an aid organization based in Mykolaiv was created by a group of friends from various professions who had to abandon their businesses after the invasion of Russia. One of them for instance is a craft beer producer who has seen his business nearly disappear due to the lack of potable water. Another is Georgiy, whose family owns a winery called Slivino that became famous on social media when they shared a photo of a Grad missile lodged in the middle of their vineyards near the city of Mykolaiv.

With the imminent arrival of winter, humanitarian organizations like Rebel Volunteers have more needs than ever and this wine is but one grain of sand in an effort to contribute and helping the Ukrainians through what will be an extremely difficult winter.

The suggested donation for a bottle is €20 and €100 for a box of six bottles (additional costs apply for shipping). For more information on payment and collection, you can contact: info@quel.cat