

# GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d   &   W e s t w o o d



## SUMMER IN UKRAINE



Summer in Ukraine is a time of sun, nature, and family traditions. People usually spend more time outdoors; they go to their village, swim in rivers, or visit the Black Sea coast.

One of the most beautiful holidays is Ivana Kupala, which is celebrated in early July. Although it's an old tradition, many young people enjoy it today. Girls wear flower crowns, and people jump over bonfires to feel brave. It's a fun way to connect with culture, especially in small towns.

Another popular place in summer is Odesa. The sea is warm, the beaches are full, and the mood is relaxed. The smell of corn, the sound of the waves, and the old streets create a special summer atmosphere. If you're lucky, you can also visit the Odesa International Film Festival, where films are shown outdoors. It's a great experience, even for those who are not film lovers.

In Kyiv, people enjoy music at the Atlas Weekend festival. A large park becomes a music city! Even though it's crowded, the energy is amazing! People dance, sing, and feel united.







Many families also travel to the Carpathians to hike, breathe in the mountain air, and collect berries. Some stay on eco-farms, where they eat fresh food and enjoy the peace. For city people, it's a big adjustment but also a great chance to relax.

Traditionally, summer is also about harvesting. Ukrainians pick tomatoes, cucumbers, and cherries, and make jams and pickles. Children help their grandparents - even if they don't always like it.

Swimming in rivers is extremely popular. The water is not cold and everything is beautifully green. People bring fruit, play music, and have picnics. It's a simple joy.

Children often go to summer camps. At first, many feel anxious, especially if it's their first time. Later, they become accustomed to camp life and don't want to leave!

Summer food is light and fresh. People eat cold borscht, okroshka, watermelon, and corn. It's delicious and practically always homemade.



To summarize, summer in Ukraine brings nature, freedom, and warm memories. It is a season that brings people together - gradually, but surely.

*By Elina*





# WHY WINE AND FOOD PAIRING MATTER (EVEN WITH LA STREET FOOD!)

If you live in LA you are probably eating some of the best street food in the world - from classic burgers, tacos, to Thai noodles and lobster rolls! The food scene here is creative and delicious. However, have you ever tried pairing that food with the right wine instead of soda or beer? When you match the right wine with the right food, something magical happens! The wine enhances the taste of the food and vice versa. And guess what? It's not so complicated!

Here are 5 examples of how you can make your meal a real wine and food experience:

## 1- Hamburger + Cabernet Sauvignon or Syrah

A juicy burger needs a wine that can handle all that flavor. Try a Cabernet Sauvignon. Bold, smooth, and perfect with meat. Want something a little spicier? Go with a Syrah for that peppery taste.

## 2- Seafood tacos + Vermentino

A tacos de mariacos, with shrimp, fish, lime, cilantro, and sauce, needs a crisp white wine with a citrusy taste and freshness. In this case, a Vermentino works like a splash of lime in your tacos!







### **3- Slice of pizza + Barbera**

Tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, and basil: so simple, so good. A glass of Barbera (my favorite red from Piemonte) has just enough acidity and freshness to match the tomato and not overpower the cheese. When classic meets classic!

### **4- Pad Thai + Riesling**

Pad Thai is sweet, salty, spicy, and full of umami. It needs a wine that can keep up. Go for a dry Riesling. The touch of sweetness balances the spice, and the acidity helps cut through the noodles and sauce.

### **5- Lobster Roll + Chardonnay**

Buttery lobster in a soft bun? Oh yes! A California Chardonnay, especially one that's not too oaky, is a dream pairing. It's rich enough to match the lobster, with just enough acidity to keep it fresh.

Pairing wine with everyday food is not about being fancy - it's about flavor. When you match the right wine to the right dish, it makes them both better! You notice more and enjoy more. So next time you're eating one of LA's greatest street foods, skip the soda and try a glass of wine! You might surprise yourself.

*By Selena*





## ACROSS THE OCEAN, ON THE WAY TO MYSELF

I've never been the type of person who is satisfied with just taking it easy. I'm goal-oriented and I've been chasing challenges since I was a child. Whenever I achieve a goal, I come up with another one. I perfectly remember a phone call I had with my mum two years ago, after I had successfully completed an important and difficult course. I told her, "I'm taking a break from everything. I want to rest for an indefinite period." She replied with laughter, "Well, I'm curious how long that will last. I bet you'll come up with something new again."

She was right. Even though I had a stable job, amazing friends, a place to live, a great salary with great working conditions, and the opportunity to do what I loved (eg. travel the world) - deep down, I still felt that I needed a change. So I moved to California - a place I had never even dreamed of before. Over 6000 miles from my hometown, across the Atlantic Ocean, on the opposite side of the globe. This was the beginning of the greatest challenge of my entire life.

In the beginning, I couldn't believe that it was really happening. Sometimes, I still can't. Everything was new and unfamiliar to me, and I had no idea what to expect. I had to figure out everything - from all of the essential stuff to where the grocery store was, or which bus I had to take to school. Moreover, I had to get used to being alone for a long time without my family and friends.

Luckily for me, I didn't have to go through it alone. My best friend has been here for me the whole time. She helps me with everything from practical things to emotional support; whenever I need it or whenever I feel weak. She pushes me forward when I hesitate or doubt myself.

Living in California sounds glamorous- like something that only happens in the movies. The truth is, I'm living the life of an ordinary person, but in a different state, on a different continent, and with more palm trees. Same, same, but different.

Over time, I started to settle in (with small steps). After six months on my own, I began to notice things about myself which I hadn't noticed before. Things I might not have wanted to see before. The distance gave me space to think and reflect on who I really am and who I want to become. When I realized all of this, it wasn't easy for me but I know it's helping me grow. When I look back, I can see a path full of uncertainty, homesickness, doubts, and hesitation. However, it was also my journey of personal growth up and self-discovery. The journey that I'm still on. So here's my message to anyone reading this: Even though it takes courage to leave behind a comfortable life and start from scratch, it's always worth it!

*By Mia*



# SHOHEI OHTANI, THE DODGERS 'JUNE MAN'



June! It's the time for Shohei Ohtani! Ohtani is a baseball player from Japan who has a great record not only for pitching, but also for hitting home runs and stealing bases. He joined the Dodgers in 2024 and won "most valuable player" that year - even though he was too injured to pitch. He is called "June Man" because he performs at a very high level in June. His batting average during this month is far higher than in other months.

When my husband and I went to Dodgers Stadium last year, Ohtani hit four home runs in the six games that we saw. One time, the ball came to our seats! Ohtani said the reason he gets more hits in June is, "I might get used to the performance of pitchers gradually each year and adjust to them in June." I always support and cheer for him!

*By Kazuyo*

## DORM LIFE

I've been living in a dorm for the past week, and here are some of the advantages to living in one! First of all, when you live in a dorm, you get more opportunities to meet new people. The most amazing people that I've met so far are the people at my dorm. I strongly believe that they are the reason why I have never felt homesick or depressed. They also have incredible dreams and passions, which really motivates me to work even harder.

Living in a dorm is also much more convenient. It may differ depending on your situation. In my case, it only takes about 30 minutes to get to school and the dance studio. The other option my travel agency gave me was a home-stay, but they told me it would take more time to get around. As a student with very limited time, choosing a dorm really helped me save time. For these two reasons, I believe that living in a dorm has its perks and is a great place to stay during your next visit!

*By Mako*

