



The Green Gold of Ecotros



Ahead we can find a hundred-year-old olive tree which suffered the great freeze of 1956, which caused the loss of numerous trees, especially olive and carob trees. This great cold wave is, for its magnitude, the most outstanding winter bout since temperatures have been recorded. We would have to go back to the Little Ice Age to find similar incidents, not just for the low temperatures recorded, nor for the snowfall, but for the persistence and duration of the intense cold that provoked unprecedented frosts.

Now, look at its trunk, its twisted branches, conveniently pruned periodically to favour its production. Now look at the ground and how its roots, that are five times longer than its main trunk, penetrate the earth looking for water and nutrients. Olive trees originated in the north of Africa and Caucasus and are drought-resistant trees, used to water scarcity, which in these estates don't have watering systems.

In the spring, this olive tree begins to bloom small flowers called sample, ("muestra" in Spanish) that turn into its fruits, the olives, and ripen over the whole summer. Years ago, the olive harvest took place in the months of November and December, but, due to a rise in temperatures, they ripen earlier each year. This factor, together with harvesting them green, when the olive has not fully ripened, means that now, the harvest begins in the first week of October. Harvesting them green means having a lower yield, which is to say, fewer grams of oil per kilogram of olives. However, we obtain quality olive oil with sensory and medicinal properties far superior to the oil that comes from ripened olives. The olive oil from Ecotros is good evidence of that.

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