

QVEVRI CLEANING TOOLS



Georgian Wine Club

Krazana

Krazana is found in the eastern part of Georgia. It is a tool used for washing qvevri and is made of a plant called *St. John's Wort* (*Hypericum Perforatum*), *Krazana* being the Georgian name of it. Qvevri is washed with the roots of this plant while it serves as an antiseptic as well. A *Krazana* tool can be used for cleaning several qvevris, however, after multiple uses it wears out and can no more be used for another season. *Krazana* scrubber is best for large capacity qvevris, when a washer usually climbs into a qvevri to clean it.



Gviis Tsotskhi (Juniperus Brush)

Gviis Tsotskhi is made of evergreen plants, *Junipers*, that are coniferous plants in the genus *Juniperus* of the cypress family *Cupressaceae*. They have short, needle-like leaves and grow berry-like, reddish-blueish fruits.

Gviis Tsotskhi is common in Kakheti region, especially in Kiziki sub-region and is usually rare in Kartli region. It is also found in Atenis Kheoba of Shida Kartli region. Like *Krazana* tool, *Gviis Tsotskhi* is used for washing large capacity qvevris when a washer climbs into a qvevri to clean it.



Sartskhi (Cherry-Bark Scrubber)

Sartskhi is a marani tool mostly found in western wine producing regions of Georgia. It is made of the bunch of bitter cherry tree barks which is pressed skillfully by a craftsman and attached to a long handle. Various cherry or bright red sour cherry barks were also used to make *Sartskhi*. In rare cases, it was made of *Birch* trees.



Orkhela (Two-Handed) Sartskhi

Orkhela Sartskhi is made of the same material, however, as the name suggests, this qvevri tool has two short handles that allow a washer to hold and use it with both hands while cleaning qvevri. It is common in the western part of Georgia and is rarely found in the east part of the country.



Orchkhushi

Orchkhushi is a qvevri cleaning tool found in Samegrelo and Guria regions. Several bunches of corn husks are attached with a wire or a string to a long wooden stick.



Matsatsuri

Matsatsuri is common in every wine producing region of Georgia. It is made of a piece of cloth that is attached to a long wooden stick and is used to remove remained water (that was pumped in and out several times until qvevri became pristine) from the bottom of qvevri and to make it dry inside.

Tagvisara

Ruscus (named *Tagvisara* in Georgian) is a genus of plants of the family *Ruscaceae*. Plants of this genus are evergreen and very branchy with small, thorny leaves. The fruit is a red berry and is usually found in the woods of west and east parts of Georgia. They make a brushlike tool, called *Tagvisara*, of this plant that is used for cleaning qvevri. Some *Tagvisara* tools come without handles which is used when a washer has to enter a large-size qvevri in order to clean it inside. In some cases, they have a long handle and are used when washing qvevri from above ground. *Tagvisara* usually wears out each season and is not used for another year.



Ochiora

Ochiora is mostly found in the western part of Georgia. It is made of a long wooden board that has holes in opposite sides. The stakes are inserted into these holes and then they're hammered into the ground to keep the board in place. There is also another hole in the middle of the board that is either round, oval or square shaped. This hole gives access to the inner surface of qvevri and protects its mouth from being damaged by the handles of cleaning tools. *Ochiora* can be rarely found in the eastern part of Georgia.



© Georgian Wine Club



© NATIONAL WINE AGENCY

The author and the photographer: George Barisashvili
The design by Tamaz Chkhaidze
The project initiator: Malkhaz Kharbedia