

The Heights of Alma



It was on September the fourteenth day
Beneath the salt sea's dashing spray
We landed safe on the 'Crimay'
Bound for the heights of Alma.

That night we lay on the cold damp ground,
No tents, no shelter could be found,
With rain we were oh nearly drowned,
Bound for the heights of Alma.

Next morn the burning sun did rise
Beneath the cloudless eastern skies,
Our gallant chief, Lord Raglan, cries,
"Prepare, my boys, for Alma!"

When Alma's heights we have in view,
The stoutest heart it would subdue
To see that mighty Russian crew
Stood on the heights of Alma.

Their bullets fell as thick as rain
As we their battery tried to gain,
And many's a hero then got slain
All on the heights of Alma.

When the Thirty-third of the Fusiliers
They gained the heights and gave three cheers,
Their ringing voices fret our ears,
Our island lads on Alma.

Our island lads with kilt and hose,
They were not less, you may suppose,
But boldly faced those Russian foes,
And victory gained on Alma.

When Alma's heights we did command
We fought those Russians hand-to-hand,
And soon we brought them to a stand
All on the heights of Alma.

To Sebastopol those troops are gone,
And news we'll hear before 'tis long,
And if their power was twice as strong,
We would have revenge on Alma.

To Sebastopol those Russians fled,
Leaving their wounded and their dead,
And rivers that day ran crimson red
With blood was spilled on Alma.

Their guns and knapsacks they threw down,
And ran like hares before the hounds,
All hell about us did resound
Of victory gained on Alma.

There's manys a pretty girl will mourn
For a lover that will never return,
Which cruel wars have from them torn,
And their bodies lie on Alma.

From sisters' eyes the tears will roll,
And none the widows will console,
And mothers will mourn beyond control
For the sons they lost on Alma.

Eight hundred Britons I heard say
Fell dead upon that fatal day,
While thirty thousand the Russians lay
All in their graves on Alma.

Notes: The Crimean War was fought from March of 1854 to 1856 between Russia and an alliance of the United Kingdom, France, and the Ottoman Empire. The major conflicts took place on the Black Sea's Crimean peninsula. The first major engagement was the Battle of Alma which took place on September 20, 1854. Even allowing for normal patriotic exaggeration and poetic licence, the figures given in the last verse of this ballad would seem to be outrageously optimistic. In actuality, the official casualty figures were 5,709 Russian, 1,340 French and 2,002 British.

Wine List

White

1. I Heart Pinot Grigio

(Romania)

A light, crisp dry white with delicate citrus fruit aromas, lemon and lime flavours. (12% ABV)

2. Sam's Island Chardonnay

(South Africa)

A ripe, full-bodied Chardonnay from the Western Cape shows bags of tropical fruit with a hint of vanilla and spice. (13% ABV)

3. The Pass Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc

(New Zealand)

Layer upon layer of intense gooseberry and grassy flavours giving great texture and length. (13.5% ABV)

125ml	175ml	250ml	Bottle
-------	-------	-------	--------

£3.10	£3.95	£5.40	£14.95
-------	-------	-------	--------

£3.10	£3.95	£5.40	£14.95
-------	-------	-------	--------

£3.50	£4.60	£5.95	£17.50
-------	-------	-------	--------

Red

4. McGuigan Cabernet Shiraz

(Australia)

Rich blackcurrant and bramble fruit flavours that are complimented by a touch of spice and subtle oak. (13% ABV)

5. Sam's Island Shiraz

(Australia)

Blackberry aromas and soft dark fruit flavours in an easy drinking style. (13% ABV)

6. Awatere Pass Hawkes Bay Merlot

(New Zealand)

Red and black fruit flavours. Mocha and chocolate complexity. (13% ABV)

7. Awatere Pass Marlborough Pinot Noir

(New Zealand)

Cherry fruits along with some spice and mature berry, light tannins and a touch of oak. (13.5% ABV)

£3.10	£3.95	£5.40	£14.95
-------	-------	-------	--------

£3.10	£3.95	£5.40	£14.95
-------	-------	-------	--------

			£19.00
--	--	--	--------

			£19.00
--	--	--	--------

Rose

8. Giotto Pinot Grigio Rose

(Italy)

Dry, strawberry flavours, crisp and refreshing. (12.5% ABV)

£3.10	£3.95	£5.40	£14.95
-------	-------	-------	--------