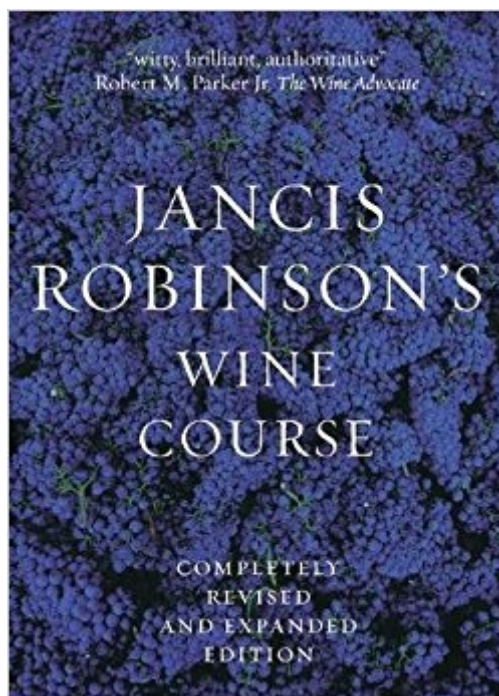


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Jancis Robinson's Wine Course: A Guide To The World Of Wine



Synopsis

The enormous variety of wines available today can be baffling even to an experienced buyer. Anyone who enters a wine store is immediately confronted by rows and rows of racks filled with a myriad of choices. Where do you begin when all you want is a reasonably priced quality wine to serve with dinner? Jancis Robinson can make anyone an expert, or at least an informed buyer, in short order. In this comprehensive guide to the wine-producing countries of the world, she captures the flavor of each region's wines and presents her personal recommendations on the best names from around the world, with thirty-two completely new pages covering the latest developments in South America, South Africa, and Eastern Europe. Robinson also describes the distinctive characteristics of hundreds of different grape varieties and studies the traditional and innovative methods employed in the creation of great wines. A fully updated vintage guide makes selection even easier. Dedicated to ensuring that you get the most out of every glass, Jancis Robinson's Wine Course explains how to taste and store wine, what to serve on special occasions at home, and how to order the best value from a restaurant wine list. Full of infectious enthusiasm and heaps of personal tips, this book will soon have you reaching for the corkscrew.

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Customer Reviews

As elegant and meticulously laid out as a posh wine shop, this companion to the BBC series of the same title by Financial Times wine columnist Robinson brims with the kind of facts, advice and trivia that will likely enthrall aspiring oenophiles but may overwhelm dilettantes. Robinson, a congenial

raconteur, divides this course into four long chapters, each providing a deep immersion into a different facet of the wine world?and each punctuated by splashy photographs and charts. "Getting the Most Out of Wine" demonstrates how to open, serve and order the stuff; "How Wine is Made" reveals how the grapes are harvested, fermented and bottled; the last chapters catalogue the hundreds of varieties of wine and the world's vineyards, from those in France and Italy to less prominent regions in Argentina, South Africa and New Zealand. The book is bursting with short glossaries and sidebars, addressing the esoteric (wine-scoring systems) and the pragmatic (pronunciation; varieties of corkscrews). A short vintage guide and an index are included, but no comprehensive glossary. Readers with income and patience enough for the trial and error that a wine education requires will find that this manual is best read over time, in conjunction with regular samplings of the wines showcased. The novice looking for a simple handbook to help navigate a wine retailer or a restaurant list may be better served by the Windows on the World Wine Course (see Notes, below). Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"An extraordinarily good wine education book." -- Wineskinny.com, June/July 2006"Witty, brilliant, authoritative" -- Robert M. Parker, Jr., The Wine AdvocateShe has an encyclopedic grasp of her subject and doesn't put a foot wrong...a splendid introduction to wine. -- Decanter Magazine

There's LOTS of great information in this book. It's very text heavy and detailed. As a student of wines...a sommelier want-to-be...this book will prepare me for the tests I will take. However, if I were just looking for surface knowledge, I might want to go with something less academic.

I love Jancis Robinson's books and videos on YouTube. She's a wonderful source of info about wine.

It amazing

Excellent

both jancis robinson and hugh johnson are my favourite wine authors

Wine is more of a contact sport.

I've looked at dozens of wine education books over the years and so far this is my favorite. I was looking for something to bring my modest knowledge of wine to the next level, and this fit the bill perfectly. It steers a middle course between the big encyclopedias and the smaller more approachable books that are too basic if you've already read a few. It's definitely not a book for the beginner, though. It's technical enough to be useful to intermediate to advanced wine lovers, but still readable for someone with some basic background. But I think an advanced beginner would be the minimum background and probably more like a beginning intermediate. The information is detailed and encyclopedic enough so that I think anyone who knew the whole book could probably run a typical wine shop, at least from the standpoint of the necessary wine expertise, and maybe more. You could certainly run the tasting counter at most wine shops as you'd be able to discuss just about any topic that came up. Besides the usual major varietals and wines, it's great for looking up information on more obscure offerings. For example, I looked up Bandol and Banyuls (the French equivalent of port, using an older process) two red wines from Roussillon-Languedoc that I didn't know very well, and in a few minutes I had a good idea of these formerly obscure (to me) wines. Other features I liked were the chapters on white and red varietals which covers hundreds of different clones and hybrids, many of which are still fairly obscure. My only quip, and it's a small one considering how good the book is overall, is the writing style. It's a bit turgid and grandiloquent for my taste, but others mileage may vary. All in all a truly great educational tool for the more experienced wine lover that you will find yourself referring to many times over the years.

There are many types of wine books on the market today. Some are the Dummy and KISS type - with little graphics and simple statements to start you from your first baby steps. Other are rich tomes with a wealth of information, like the Oxford Companion to Wine, which Jancis edits. These have just about every term and region you could hope to learn about. This companion to Jancis' TV series is neither of the above, and it is much more. It is Jancis speaking to you, from her richly educated base of knowledge, to help you learn what makes wine so interesting. Think of Jancis as your incredibly experienced aunt, who has just come back from some exotic trip. She and you have sat down in the living room by a fire, are sipping some wine, and she is preparing to regale you with stories, and tidbits, and insights, and fascinating worlds you didn't even imagine. That's what the book is like. It starts with the basics - how to taste, how to serve, how to decant, wine and food. Even in these areas you get the sense that Jancis is chatting with you about something she loves. She admits to decanting full whites not because they need it, but because she loves the glowing

color. She goes into the gritty details of how wines are made, what a free-run-wine is, how sparkling and sweet wines are created. And then, she begins in on the regional reviews. France, of course, is first. It always seems to come first. Beautiful pictures of the Chateau Latour tower and Loire valley gables. You move on through Italy, Spain, and yes, the US and Australia get a mention in here too. The reviews are all written from her heart - you see clearly what she likes and doesn't like, and you learn why. A great way to learn more about wine - especially if you're also able to watch the TV Series!

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