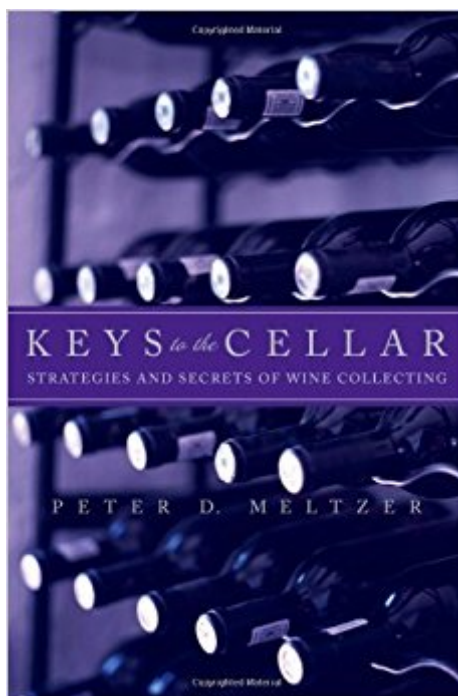


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Keys To The Cellar: Strategies And Secrets Of Wine Collecting



Synopsis

"Peter D. Meltzer, Wine Spectator's auction correspondent for more than twenty years, is the foremost authority on wine collecting. His book offers expert guidance for beginners and connoisseurs alike." --Marvin R. Shanken, Editor and Publisher, Wine Spectator "Peter Meltzer is an authoritative journalist, savvy collector, and urbane restaurant and wine list critic; he makes the ideal companion and counselor for wine collectors." --Michael Batterberry, Editor in Chief and Publisher, Food Arts "Keys to the Cellar is fascinating, informative, and easy to read; with this book, you will truly understand the ins and outs of buying wines for your personal cellar." --Kevin Zraly, educator and author of Windows on the World Complete Wine Course A true wine-lover who knows the value of a well-aged bottle, Peter Meltzer both celebrates and demystifies wine collecting in Keys to the Cellar. His appreciation of fine wine flavors every page as he gives you a practical approach to building a collection that fits your preferences, your lifestyle, and your budget. You'll find information on:

- * Buying and selling wine at auction, including valuable insider tips
- * Bidding at online wine auctions
- * Using the Web to calculate a wine's true value or locate a hard-to-find bottle
- * Making the best use of fine wine merchants
- * Storing and enjoying your wine--both every day and over the long term

As a bonus, this guide includes a user-friendly Wine Spectator auction index, an invaluable tool for researching the "going rate" for more than 500 top auctioned wines. Whether you are just getting started or want to enhance your collection, this is a book you'll savor again and again--like your favorite fine wines.

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Customer Reviews

Seasoned wine critic and Wine Spectator auction correspondent Meltzer unlocks the secrets and strategies of wine collecting, teaching readers how to create a cellar to fit one's lifestyle, store wine, and buy and sell at auctions and on the web. The book's references include lists of the top auction houses and auction records, as well as a glossary of wine collecting terms which will help beginners ease into the world of wine collecting. Fervent aficionados will enjoy trivia ranging from the winemaking's origins in Turkey, Persia and China, to noteworthy record-breaking auction sales, including Christie's \$11 million Grands Crus, at which a jeroboam (an oversized bottle) of Mouton-Rothschild 1945 was sold for \$114,614. Readers will feel armed with the proper expertise to take part in bidding at auctions, find wines online, store collections properly and enjoy prized labels with kindred palates. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

One can find many books on building the perfect wine cellar, but guidance for the budding wine collector on how to fill that cellar is scarce. Meltzer, a Wine Spectator columnist and contributing editor to Food Arts, offers expert and accessible advice on how to develop an enjoyable collection. Meltzer suggests several strategies for collecting wine, focusing on either immediate consumption, taste, investing, or a balance of all three. Plans, budgets, suggested wines, and number of bottles to hold for all four scenarios provide the foundation for starter collections. Wine storage requirements and options are included; chapters are dedicated to locating desired wine, either on the web or at auction. Novices will appreciate the instructions on determining a wine's value and how to stick to and stretch a budget. Wine and vintages are referred to with no description, so readers are assumed to have some familiarity with the topic. For truly avid collectors, Meltzer discusses wine-related accessories, such as stemware and corkscrews; he has good tips on what's available and what's desirable. Helpful appendixes include a glossary of wine-collecting terminology and a forthcoming directory of auctions. Recommended for public libraries. —Kimberly Bartosz, Univ. of Wisconsin at Parkside Lib., Kenosha (Library Journal, October 15, 2006)

Meltzer is a veteran of the wine auctions and his tips for buying at auction are invaluable. He also provides very solid ideas as to how to start your cellar (the actual collection of bottles, not the construction of the thing) depending on your interests, lifestyle and approach to wine. I found it most informative because of the wealth of tidbits and asides that he adds to it. He has been around for a while and it shows. This is a book i would give to someone who wants to seiously get into wine, and

i would definitely buy it again.

Mr. Meltzer is a solid writer with an excellent wine industry pedigree. He is a collector himself and is the knowledgeable auction correspondent for Wine Spectator as well as being a contributing editor for Food Arts. His column in Wine Spectator is generally the first thing I read in that publication. Along with the "collector spotlight" segment, it is also often the part of the magazine I enjoy the most. Unfortunately, I found this book somewhat poorly formatted. I think the problem is that the Mr. Meltzer tries to reach too broad an audience while simultaneously providing very pointed material. Truly, this is a book for the serious wine collector, or for the individual with a lot of capital looking to begin collecting. Either way, it is really meant for someone who is looking at wine collecting as an investment vehicle. In that respect, it serves its purpose and certainly deserves the attention of individuals in those categories. The book starts with a chapter entitled, "A Cellar To Fit Your Lifestyle", setting the reader up for the expectation that the rest of the book is going to follow a model which is tailored to multiple audiences. However, this expectation is at odds with the actual direction of the following chapters. Successive chapters include "Buying and Selling Wine At Auction," and a historical breakdown, "Collecting: A Brief Background," as well as a discussion of The Wine Spectator Auction Index. These are all topics which I find fascinating, but which I believe could be intimidating for someone interested in starting a moderate or low-end collection. It almost feels as though Mr. Meltzer's editor insisted on the inclusion of the first chapter in order to increase the book's sales, after the rest of the book had already been written. Some of the most enjoyable and interesting segments of the book are the mid-chapter interludes of either case-studies or anecdotes. I suspect that several of these interludes are really just reprints of Mr. Meltzer's Wine Spectator columns, or at least pull quite heavily from them. In many ways, these interludes could make up their own book. If that were the case, it would make for an infinitely easier volume to move through. As it is, the way they are distributed in the book can be distracting and bog the reader down. Additionally, their content is not always directly relevant to the chapter in which they are located, thus making them feel as though they're included in a somewhat pell-mell fashion. Finally, the writing can also feel overly cerebral and somewhat patronizing at times. The numerous charts and detailed auction information can also feel overwhelming with the small typeface. At any rate, part of me loves this book for providing information that serious collectors will find useful and which I found highly informative. The rest of me dislikes it for setting itself up as a collecting guide for the masses but then potentially alienating that readership with the layout and content.

This book explained a lot about Wine Auctions, Wine Investment, and how to look for wine bargains. I was looking more for how to cellar the wine, temperatures, humidity, location, how to build the cellar (starting with wines to purchase or how to think about starting a cellar) for truly wine drinkers and it lacked this information. If you want to invest in wine, great book.

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