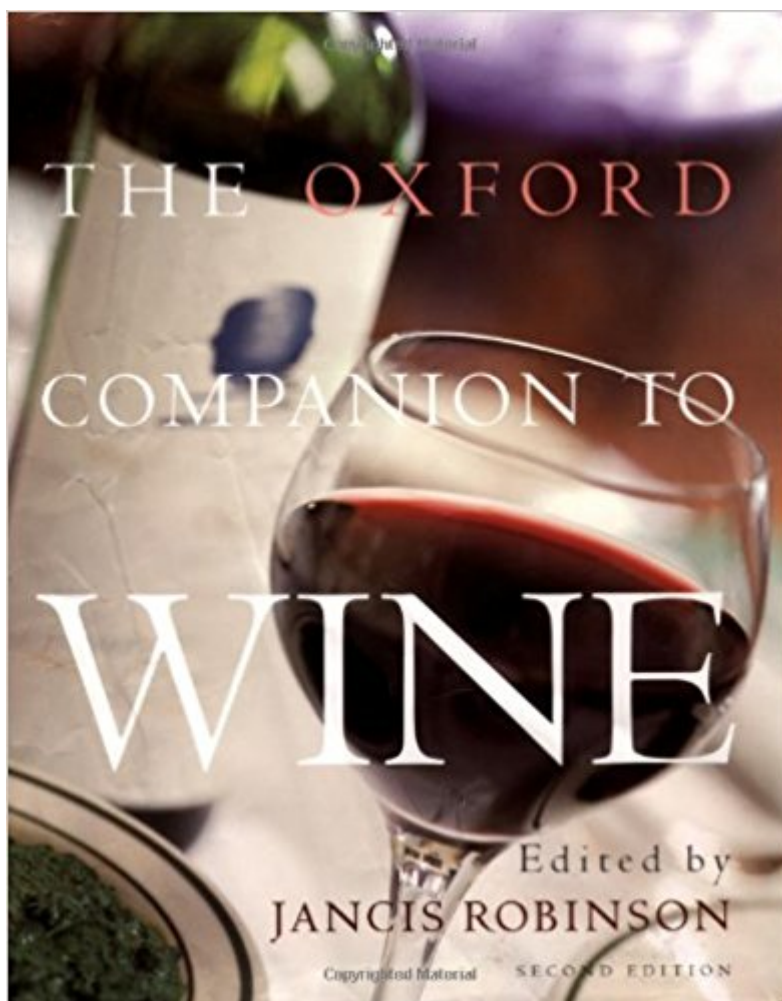


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# The Oxford Companion To Wine



## Synopsis

Hailed by Frank J. Priol in *The New York Times* as "a required reference for anyone who is serious about wine," and by Anthony Dias Blue as "one of the definitive reference books on the subject," *The Oxford Companion to Wine* won every major wine book award, including the Julia Child and the James Beard awards. Now, Jancis Robinson has completely revised this masterpiece, adding over 500 new entries and thoroughly updating most of the rest. Lavishly illustrated, with over 200 black and white pictures, 31 full color plates, and 31 maps of every wine region in the world, the *Companion* is the only wine volume to combine science, history, geography, wine varieties, social and cultural information, and much more. Ranging from Abruzzi and armagnac to Zimbabwe and Zinfandel, from Dionysian revels in ancient Greece to today's leading wine research centers, its 3,400 alphabetically arranged entries explore all aspects of wine, including the latest advances in viticulture and enology. There are in-depth discussions of the climates and grape varieties of great wine regions of the world, and numerous biographies ranging from Dom Perignon to Robert Parker. The book discusses vintner's terms, business and legal aspects, and related topics such as distilled and fortified wines. All technical terms are fully explained, and the hundreds of useful drawings and photographs illustrate key processes. New features include a complete guide to geographical names, a vintage chart, an overview of recent wine prices and investment, and a navigation chart to the *Companion*. The ultimate reference on wine and wine-making, *The Oxford Companion to Wine* is the perfect volume to enhance a lifetime's enjoyment of this intoxicating topic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The first edition garnered a number of awards and uniformly positive reviews [RBB D 1 94]. The second edition maintains that high quality, with 500 new entries as well as a considerable number of revised entries covering all aspects of the history, science, geography, and culture of wine. This is an excellent accompaniment to *The Oxford Companion to Food*, which we reviewed in our January 1 & 15, 2000, issue.

"This is an invaluable resource for serious wine drinkers who never quench their thirst for learning about varietals, appellations, wine history, and vineyards."--*Business Week*"The greatest wine book ever published.... A worthy purchase even for those who already own its predecessor."--Michael Franz, *The Washington Post*"An encyclopedic reference.... If it's not here, it has nothing to do with wine."--*Wine and Spirits*"A wine lover's best friend."--*La Cucina Italiana*"The preeminent basic resource for wine lovers.... It is hard to believe that editor Jancis Robinson could improve upon a work whose first edition was so universally lauded, but indeed she has."--*Wine Enthusiast*Reviews of the first edition:"A required reference for anyone who is serious about wine."--Frank J. Prial, *The New York Times*"Jancis Robinson has become the Julia Child of wine."--*Newsday*"One of the definitive reference books on the subject."--Anthony Dias Blue"Easily the most complete compendium of wine knowledge assembled in modern times.... Essential to even the smallest library of wine books."--*The New York Times*"This may be the most important book on wine to appear in the past 20 years....The very existence of this book stands as evidence of the significance of wine in our culture.... This volume will enhance the usefulness of every other wine book by providing authoritative explanations of the nuts and bolts that others treat only in passing."--*The Washington Post*

When I bought this book I really was looking for a great starting point to learn about wine. This book it over the top with information on things that I am clueless about and since the book is from A-Z, it really wasn't a great for a beginner. Back to the search for a basic book on wine!

Some reference books sit on the shelf, forgotten, hoping to be used someday in the future when someone has a desperate need to know how to calculate the third log value of an arctangent. This book is as far removed from that fate as a Petrus is from a White Zinfandel! At least once a week I have opened up this gorgeous wine tome and looked up the answer to a question, or read more about a particular wine I was enjoying. With over 3,000 entries to choose from, you can explore the

ancient roots of wine in Iraq and Egypt, or learn about new vine-growing techniques winemakers are using in Washington State. The information is clearly written, well illustrated, and not overly technical. Jancis Robinson, the editor of the tome, is well known in the industry for her knowledge and fluency in wines of all types. Combine her amazing knowledge with fantastic photographs of each wine region, and even reviews of various personalities in wine, and you have a book that you'll keep on the coffee table and actually read often! Be warned - you can lose guests in its pages for hours. The book is great for a beginner. Confused about Beaujolais Nouveau? Want to know how a White Zinfandel differs from a Red Zinfandel? The Oxford Companion to Wine has clear, concise descriptions of all wine types, explaining their histories, their characteristics, and where they're found now. The Companion is also a boon for experienced drinkers. It goes into the fine details of how wines are grown, and how various winemakers use different techniques to bring out the best in their particular grapes. There are maps of wine regions, and insights into what makes certain wines unique. Great as a gift for your favorite wine drinker, but buy one for yourself, too! The book is a wonderful reference tool to have around the house. With its lovely photos of France, Italy, and Spain, it serves as a wine-lovers guide to places to visit or dream about, and wines to drink while doing so. Highly recommended as the only wine book you should ever need.

If you enjoy wine and always want to know more about the varietals, the history, etc., this book is without question, a fantastic source of detailed information on every grape known to man. Ms. Robinson is a well known, world renowned wine guru and this book shows why. I have yet to find a question on the subject that this book can't completely explain.

Excellent value, excited to add this to my collection

If you're into wine, or into learning about it, then this book does well to supplement another perhaps smaller, more specialized book. It doesn't necessarily deal at length with nuances of individual grapes, or how to develop a thorough tasting method. It's very useful when you come across a wine term you won't find in Webster's or want to know what the deal is with grafting, etc. I don't give it a 5 because I think, considering it's namesake and already generous size, they could have gone into more detail on some of the world's lesser-known but up-and-coming varietals at the expense of a few dozen more pages. But still a very good book to have if you want to fill your mind, or just like reading encyclopedias cover to cover.

Solid 1st line of defense in learning and appreciating wine. I would buy it again...but then I would have 2 of the same book.

I wanted a book that would give me a starting point of the fundamentals in wine, the basics. However, this book goes over the top in detail. A little too much for what I was expecting. It is in my opinion the encyclopaedia of wine. No matter, no need to purchase anything else concerning this particular subject.

For a novice like me with long but limited wine knowledge this is a perfect companion. I consider this THE encyclopedia for all wine related questions. It would be hard to find a more comprehensive compendium on wine. Equally recommended for the beginner or everyone who needs answers to his questions regarding wine. KEEP IN MIND: This is an alphabetic encyclopedia type of book.

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