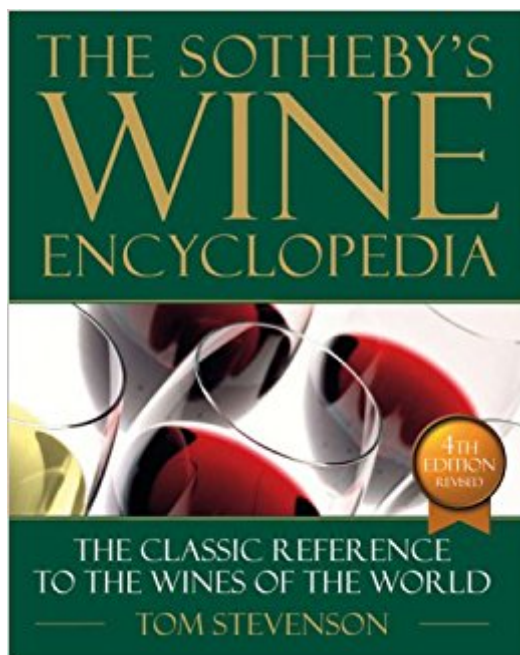


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Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia: Fourth Edition, Revised



Synopsis

The essential insider's guide to every major wine-growing region in the world, this book offers dozens of helpful Top 10 lists covering a broad range of topics, including Best-Value Producers, Greatest-Quality Wines, and Most Exciting or Unusual Finds. The book is a must for every wine serious enthusiast who wants to keep up with the constantly changing and ever-expanding world of wine. AUTHOR BIO: Tom Stevenson has been writing about wine for nearly thirty years and is the author of more than 20 books. He's been nominated Wine Writer of the Year on three occasions and received the coveted Wine Literary Award, America's lifetime achievement award for wine writing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"... an essential part of a good wine library." -- The Wall Street Journal "... this is anything but dull or pedantic and is written in a way both wine experts and novices can enjoy." -- Tampa Tribune

Tom Stevenson has been writing about wine for over 20 years. He has written over 15 books and won 21 awards. An acknowledged world expert on Champagnes and sparkling wines and a regular contributor to many wine magazines. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

This is a reference book. You would only read this cover to cover if you'd do the same with the

dictionary. Stevenson opens with a brief explanation of how to assess wine before going into a very detailed examination of viticulture "growing grapes" and vinification "making wine". The bulk of the book is an exhaustive analysis of the world's wine producers wherein Stevenson introduces the country, its regions of production, the appellations within those regions, and notable producers. He uses an elaborate system of symbols to communicate when wines should be drunk, the grape varieties used in vinification, and quality. He even has a symbol that signifies "wines of exceptional value for money, whether they are inexpensive or not." A handy glossary of grape varieties with all their synonyms eliminates confusion and a tasting chart of aromas from apples to sauerkraut explains the chemical reasons why we can detect them in wine. The Guide to Good Vintages' most recent year is 2003. Stevenson also dedicates a few pages to wine and food pairings with budget bottle choices. The book measures roughly 11 1/4 in (29 cm) x 8 3/4 in (22 cm) x 1 1/2 in (4 cm) and weighs about 4 lbs (1.8 kg). A great companion to this book is Michael Schuster's Essential Winetasting here: [Essential Winetasting: The Complete Practical Winetasting Course](#).

This book is great for France (by far the longest section), and provides acceptable introductory overviews of other regions, but is truly dreadful for Italy and Germany if you are looking for a bit more detail. The maps of those regions are also extremely difficult to decipher, because they are trying to cover too much (one half-page map is supposed to cover all of Northwest Italy, which includes at least 4 major wine regions). In addition, it's largely a book to guide investing in wine, not necessarily exploring wine for fun's sake. A good introductory tool, nonetheless, but not much beyond that.

This is a good book depending on what you're looking for. It's also an older book now, considering how new areas are exploding into the market nowadays, but still maintains it's usefulness in overall knowledge. I admit, I don't sit down and read this like I probably should. I don't have a great knowledge of wines, but I have a fairly decent palate and know what I like and around how much I want to pay. This book helped me figure these things out. The way they mark the value for quality has helped me try new wines that most of the time I've ended up loving. That being said, sometimes this book isn't the easiest to use. Broken up into regions, you have to first know where you're looking for what you're looking for if that makes sense. Again, I should probably sit down and read this one of these days, but I usually just end up flipping through pages until something catches my eye. I think this has more to do with my personality because it's how I also shop for wine when I

haven't used this book. Often I use this paired with *What to Drink with What You Eat: The Definitive Guide to Pairing Food with Wine, Beer, Spirits, Coffee, Tea - Even Water - Based on Expert Advice from America's Best Sommeliers* to get an idea of what I should be looking for once my menu is set.

I gave my husband this (very large) book as an Xmas gift so he could learn about wine since we have a great store nearby us that sells many international varieties. My husband loves the book (and so do I!). It has great maps and pictures. It breaks down the information in easy to follow sections by country and region. It's very in-depth for someone who wants more nitty gritty details on wines of different regions. This book is great. We can now look up most any wine we own or want to purchase and it is represented in this book. It's more than just a great coffee table book. It is a great reference guide and will come in handy many years to come. Excellent book!

this book is a must have for everyone in the industry. It is detailed and extensive but very easy to use. Even these days, the SWE is recommended by the major wine organizations across the world to pass first and second level wine course

Love the book, but this edition that was sent to me was in horrible condition. The entire front cover was loose and falling off! Very disappointing!

Pretty good.

Excellent product!! I received it in Argentina in 15 days!! in perfect conditions!! Apart from that this book was not available in my country. I strongly recommend it :D Thank you !!!

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