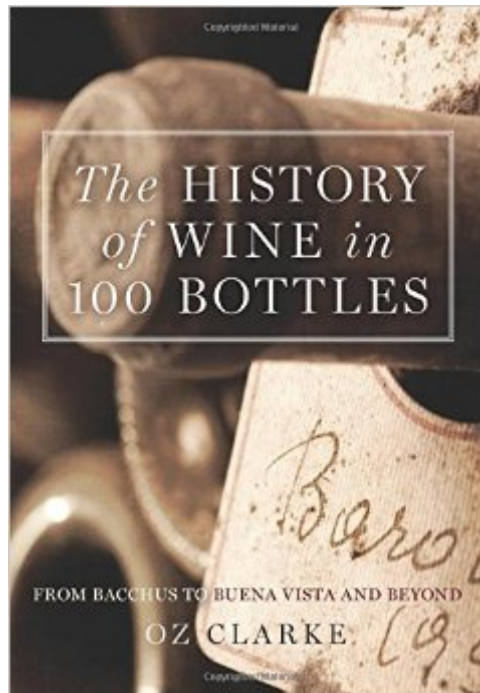


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# The History Of Wine In 100 Bottles: From Bacchus To Bordeaux And Beyond



## Synopsis

Winemaking is as old as civilization itself, and this illuminating volume takes a unique approach to that history: by exploring 100 bottles that have had the biggest impact on the evolution of wine. Moving from the first cork tops to screw caps, renowned wine writer Oz Clarke presents such landmarks as the introduction of the cylindrical wine bottle in the 1780s; the first estate to bottle and label its own wine (formerly sold in casks to merchants only); the most expensive bottle sold at auction and the oldest unopened bottle; the change in classifications; and the creation of numerous famous vintages. Fully illustrated with photographs of bottles, labels, and other images, this is a beautiful tribute to the "bottled poetry" that is wine.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Sterling Epicure (April 28, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1454915617

ISBN-13: 978-1454915614

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #56,500 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Wine](#) #67 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking Education & Reference > History](#) #86 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Homebrewing, Distilling & Wine Making](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book isn't about 100 bottles. It's more like 100 vignettes about wine. "Phoenicia", "Resin and All That", "Corkscrews", "Screw Caps", "Fraud", and many other topics aren't bottles. The two page format for every topic is not one I like. I think the subject should define the length, rather forcing the subject to fit the length. Nonetheless, this book reeled me in. I just wanted to keep reading. It's light, it's fluffy, and it's a gimmick. But it's fun. It works.

The author literally skips through the history of wine. Informal, often using slang expressions unknown to Americans it is nevertheless fun and accurate. Each topic is much like a glass of wine, tasty, sharp and fun. Good for students of wine and wine lovers. It was my beach read this week,

sorry to see it end!

I have been reading Oz Clarke books for several years now and they do not disappoint . Well-researched and full of timely information and trends. I always finish one of his books and find myself amazed at what I still learn . He's very entertaining in his writing style and honest in his opinions.

A very well made book. Design, typography, image processing, color reproduction, offset printing, all excellent, impeccable! Well written story telling, which intrigues the reader, at least for me. It's not dry but very interesting. It's not just about wine, its history but about the culture and stories where wine is at its center.

Terrific collection of historical nuggets that will fill in the big puzzle of the world of wine. Oz Clarke writes in a lively and humorous way and each of the 100 sections is lively and addicting so that you want to read the next one. Lots of interesting photographs and artwork as well. The design is great.

Let's not feel sorry for Oz Clarke, the prolific wine writer. He was faced with a huge challenge: to write the history of wine. But how? Hugh Johnson gave it a shot a quarter century ago; Jancis Robinson has taken up the cudgel as well. How does one organize such a wide and wild field of knowledge? In this volume, *The History of Wine in 100 Bottles* (published Tuesday by Sterling Epicure) Clarke bypasses not only long-winded history and geography but grape varieties as well; in their stead, he tells 100 stories, short bursts of wine-related anecdotes. Nothing wrong with that; after all, that's what I did in my own book *Home Grown Seattle*. The trouble with the "100 stories" format is that some topics will inevitably seem trivial compared to others. "Wine in legend" merits a thoughtful historical essay, yet ends up with exactly the same space as mini-biographies of Robert Parker and Michael Broadbent. Bag-in-box wines get an entry; David Lett gets an entry for Oregon pinot noir; Chateau Ste. Michelle and Washington State do, too (though Associated Vintners prof Lloyd Woodbourne is identified as Lloyd Woodhouse). Still, it's a good, breezy read, bouncing briskly from one decade to the next, one continent to another, taking into account forgotten details (Hitler had a collection of half a million bottles, and he didn't even like wine), and embarrassing moments (Rudy Kurniawan's fraudulent bottles). If this were Clarke's first (or only) book, one might hesitate to recommend it. But for those of us whose shelves are already creaking with the classic titles, this is the sort of reference work you want to keep closer at hand.

Though not comprehensive, this is a chronological history of wine written with Oz Clark's usual engaging style. Not a fancy coffee-table book. Good for neophytes.

The book is hilarious! I adore it. Accompany it with a glass of wine, and the best evening ever for a wine enthusiast is guaranteed :)

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