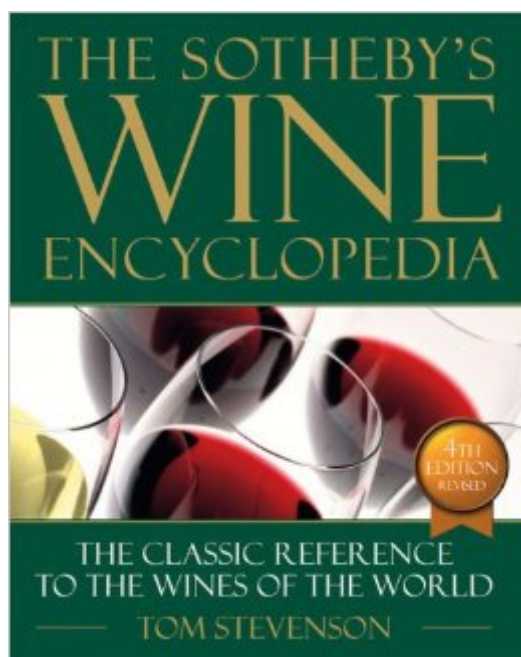


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Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia: Fourth Edition, Revised



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

Series: Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia

Hardcover: 664 pages

Publisher: DK ADULT; 4 edition (November 19, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756631645

ISBN-13: 978-0756631642

Product Dimensions: 9 x 1.7 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #403,422 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Buying Guides #368 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Wine #485 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Homebrewing, Distilling & Wine Making

Customer Reviews

If only one wine reference encyclopedia is to be purchased, The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia: The Classic Reference To The Wines Of The World should surely be a strong contender: it's now in its 4th edition, has been fully updated, and is the only single volume that maps and provides in-depth details about every wine-growing region from traditional to new - including those of emerging areas. Each region receives an analysis of appellations, taste and quality, winning producers, and offerings. Add rating systems, small color photos of labels and vineyard descriptions and you have a real winner.

What can I say about the latest edition except bigger and better. I love the breakdown of the appellations such as the difficult French and Italian AOCs and DOCs (and DOCGs). The layout is more accessible than the Oxford though lacks the breadth and depth of the latter text. Being in the wine business for many years I must recommend this as one of the cornerstones of any wine library and the 3rd book to buy for your wine knowledge after the Oxford Companion to Wine (1st) and the World Atlas of Wine (2nd)

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.

There's more than one book in this category, but this is my preferred source of look-it-up wine info. Kept up to date by periodic revisions, you can update your copy and pass the down-rev versions on to friends and family -- the key facts don't change too dramatically, and the quality of the publication itself (writing, illustrations, design -- the whole package) is extremely good. I keep buying the new releases mostly to keep up with the French AOC structure, but you wouldn't necessarily have to buy every single one (sorry, Tom) I have a weakness for encyclopedias of various kinds, and this is a very good example.

Great for studying for Sommelier exam and also great for wine buyers to learn about vineyards...and much more.

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

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 its 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!

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