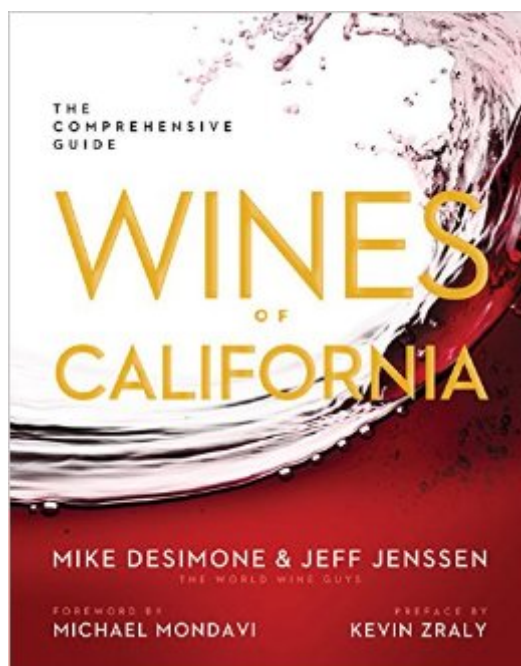


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Wines Of California: The Comprehensive Guide



Synopsis

From Napa and Sonoma to Modesto and Calaveras, take an unparalleled look into California winemaking, history, and geography. "World Wine Guys" Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jenssen have created the most up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of the state's myriad wine-growing regions, including detailed listings of outstanding producers with individual tasting notes. Enjoy winery profiles with tasting notes, winemaker interviews, recipe and food pairings, and photos of all, including wine labels. In addition, there's a foreword by Michael Mondavi and a preface by Kevin Zraly "two of the most powerful names in wine today."

Book Information

Hardcover: 592 pages

Publisher: Sterling Epicure (September 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1454904488

ISBN-13: 978-1454904489

Product Dimensions: 2 x 7.8 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #492,824 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Buying Guides #99 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > U.S. Regional > California #465 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Wine

Customer Reviews

Most of the reviews of Wines of California above read like booster reviews by buddies and fans. Ironically, this entire book is written in the exact same way... 582 pages without a single word criticizing a California wine or winery. I'm not asking for point rankings a la Wine Advocate, but surely they didn't like every wine they've tasted here? The book is about 1/3 fawning review of various wine producing areas in CA, 1/3 fawning reviews of assorted wineries in those areas (they actually read as if they're taken directly from each wineries advertising), and 1/3 winemaker interviews about (you guessed it) how great California wine is. Imagine you're heading to Paso Robles (as we just did). You look through the list of wineries in the book. Every review is completely positive. The list is, you guessed it, just the most commercially successful or biggest name recognition wineries, unranked in any way. Where's Shale Oak winery (best Cab in Robles IMHO

and one of the prettiest tasting rooms in the state)? Where's Minassian Young Vineyards? Nowhere, because they're small batch, high quality, up-and-coming vineyards. How to decide which 5 vineyards to see out of the hundred just in that AVA region? Not a word. I think if you aren't enthusiastic about California wine, you should be. But if you're looking for a practical book to help you plan a vineyard trip or even a shopping trip down the California wine aisle at your local wine store, I don't see how this will help you at all.

Following in the footsteps of their first massive wine book, *Wines of the Southern Hemisphere*, Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jenssen have now moved on to California and offer another massive work. Unlike their competitors, these seasoned wine writers taste their way through ALL the AVAs of this vast state, even the very newest and the tiniest, and offer wine tasting notes on hundreds of wines. The writing is informative, yet down to earth; no raised pinky or preaching here. There's even an entire section of the book where the authors interview dozens of wine producers; it's fun and educational at the same time. What other book offers the wine producers a chance to tell us about their grapes, their wine philosophy, their favorite foods and pastimes, their favorite wines in their own private wine cellars, even their favorite wines that come from another winery? And, for us food lovers, there's even a section of California recipes with wine pairings, all offerings from the wine and food folks that the authors met along the way. I'm traveling to California next summer with this book in my backpack. I've already dragged it to my local wine shop in a very large purse! Hopefully they'll be a paperback soon.

I bought this based on reading Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jenssen's writing in *Wine Enthusiast* and the *Huffington Post*, they write about food and wine in an exciting and approachable way. *Wines of California* is a true wine travel adventure through the state, presenting the history and facts of the region, wineries and grapes. I've only read through to San Francisco and I want to head out on a road trip to experience what I am reading, the tasting notes really bring the wines to life and are presented in a way that is understandable to an amateur enthusiast like myself. I recommend the book to anyone that enjoys learning about new wines and likes to know the history behind the experience, given the number of wineries that it covers I am sure most people will learn something new.

This is an excellent reference guide to California wines even though it is not as comprehensive as we would like. Many of our local and smaller wineries are not covered. However, the authors did a

fine job given the enormous task of winnowing down the number of wineries reviewed to something useful. Where or where is James Laube's update of his magnificent guide to California wines?

Wines of California is a wonderful serenade to the wines of that region. This book is a great find for the wine connoisseur or the wine lover trying to find great wines anytime. This guide is a fantastic follow up to their Southern Hemisphere book and is an easy read for anyone interested in California wines. It was written with great format and style, Kudos!

Obviously these guys know their wines! This is not a typical California Wine book as it covers much more than just Napa and Sonoma and we all know that there are some incredible wines throughout the great state of California. An easy, yet informative read, their writing style gives me the background I want without getting bogged down in the science of wines. Cheers!

I loved Mike Desimone and Jeff Jenssen's book covering the Southern Hemisphere and I was so excited to get their book on California wines...a road trip is definitely in my future. Thanks for taking the snobbery out of wine

One of the best new books on what is what I feel is all you need to know about what is cool in California. Well written and researched with all the important regions in California. I would love to buy this book as a gift to any of my friends that looking for a informative new book with a modern view of what novices and fans are looking for in Cali wine scene. Brilliantly organized and my new "go to" wine book. Cheers!

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