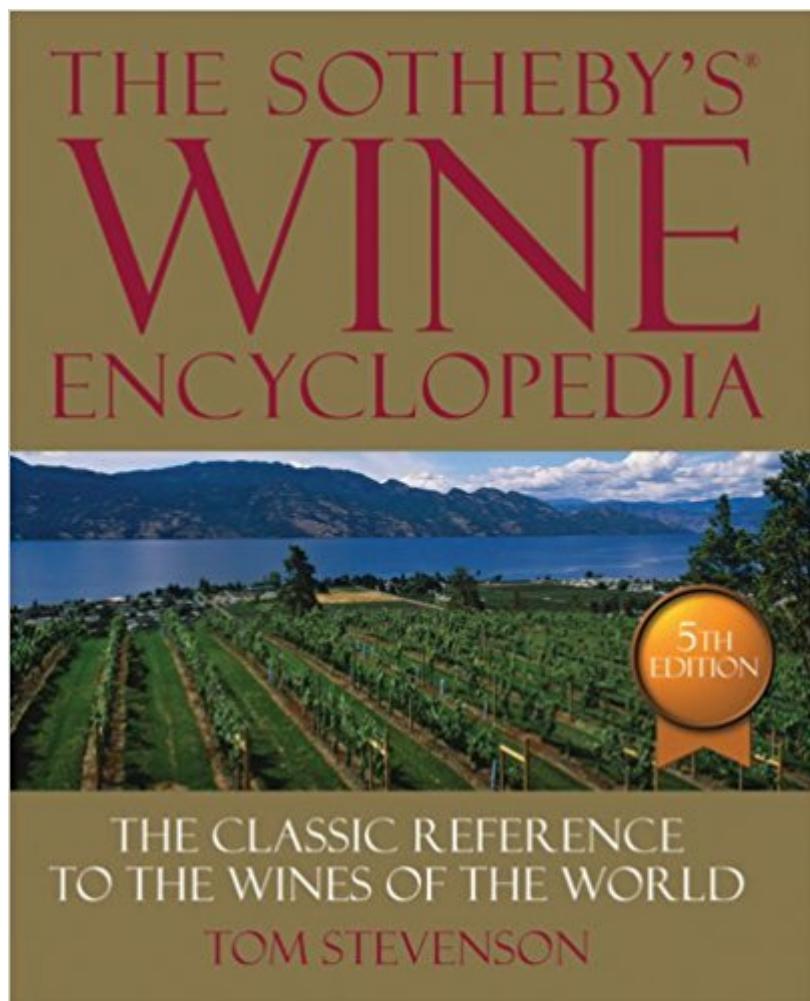


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Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia



Synopsis

Reflecting recent changes in the dynamic world of wine, with special sections devoted to the countries of Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia is the most up-to-date and comprehensive wine reference in the world. A remarkable achievement, bridging the gap between the needs of the novice and the experienced professional, The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia is fully illustrated, highly accessible, and contains authoritative information on every wine-related topic.

Book Information

Series: Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia

Hardcover: 736 pages

Publisher: DK ADULT; 5 edition (October 31, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756686849

ISBN-13: 978-0756686840

Product Dimensions: 9 x 1.9 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #533,615 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Buying Guides #487 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Wine #628 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Homebrewing, Distilling & Wine Making

Customer Reviews

Tom Stevenson has been writing about wine for thirty years. He is the author of twenty-three critically acclaimed books and the winner of thirty-one literary awards, including Wine Writer of the Year-three times.

This book is very well constructed. The information contained within far exceeds what I would have expected to find in density and depth. Each 2 page spread I encounter seems to cover more information than I have found in entire chapters of some other wine references. This density of information makes some portions of this book, especially the lengthy lists of individual producers, not a light or "fun" read. However these portions of the book make invaluable reference points for anyone wanting to build a professional level of knowledge. The first several chapters of this book

should be required reading for anyone who wants to work in wine retail, and there should be a copy available as a reference in every store. The list of grape varieties is just right for a good wine reference. It includes synonyms and brief descriptions. The book covers trellising systems, deductive tasting, glassware, and many other important basics. There are easier books to read on this subject. If I had never read a book on wine, this is not where I would begin. I would recommend owning it though, because it is a very useful reference.

The book is a needed update: the world of wine moves ever forward, and many appellation systems throughout the world are in flux. New sections on cooperages, glassware, and an expanded variety section are good additions. The producer profiles remain a little disappointing in some areas, and as always Stevenson makes his own opinions and views very apparent--an occasionally awkward approach for an encyclopedic tome, but ultimately a refreshing one. Stevenson is never something to be read from cover to cover, but this book will likely remain on your shelf as a resource for years to come, and every fresh look brings some new detail to light.

I wanted to learn more about wine, and boy, did I learn more than I wanted to. This is an encyclopedia and is used mainly for reference. This is the most popular book in my coffee table pile. Usually a starter of conversations and even helps your chances with the ladies sometimes.

I'm not a sommelier, nor do I play one on TV, but I bought this encyclopedia to try to get a better knowledge of wine, and boy it's the real deal! I'm only about 10 pages in, and I've already learned a ton!

Just wish there was an e-Book version so I could increase the font size! There's a wealth of information here, but much of it is difficult to read due to the teeny tiny font used to cram as much information into the book. Maybe 2 volumes of 700+ pages would allow you to double the font size into something legible.

This was my go to text for the WSET Advanced level as well as the Certified level of the Court of Master Sommeliers. This text has enough information to easily cover almost any question on those exams. For the Advanced level as well as the WSET Diploma, this is still a handy reference. The Oxford will be a bit more useful for those upper level exams. But that is not to say this is only a reference text for wine students. No, this book is a wonderful overview of wine production as well as

wine regions across the globe. I recommend this highly over the Kevin Zraly text and the Wine Bible by McNeil. The updates are not quite as dramatic as in other texts. Mainly the author adds a few newly approved appellations and updates the vintage charts in each section. There are also many new photos. But the bulk of the book remains unchanged, and it doesn't need to be changed. I have purchased three revisions, this being the third. Each one does contain enough new information to warrant updating to the new version: if you are using it to study. If you are just a wine consumer, the updates may not be worth getting the new edition. Mainly I was tired of the old highlights from my previous study sessions! If you are working towards wine certifications, this should be one of the three books that form the foundation along with *World Atlas of Wine* and *The Oxford Companion to Wine*, 3rd Edition. These three texts are amazing and well researched and cross checked. So a few nice things about this text:
+ Great format with appellations well notated and descriptions, grape varieties, etc...
+ Doesn't focus on producers, instead on regions (though some producers are noted).
+ Good pictures, they can be small but there are many.
+ Great first section describing wine making and viticulture very well and with very nice illustrations and photos.
+ Very thorough.
+ Very easy to read maps with regions well marked, nice they are not overly complex.
+ Heavy duty, it has a lot of pages and the binding is very sturdy.
+ Format makes looking up wine regions very easy - handy for when opening bottles at home and wanting a quick read.
- The cover colors are **HIDEOUS**. Seriously guys! The blue and the green were good, but the red/gold is an eyesore! That's really my only negative comment, and I had to come up with at least one! If the color of the cover is the worst thing about the book, then you really can't go wrong can you? Cheers!-C

Essential. I gave it to my son to study for his Sommelier certification and he passed with flying colors. I use it for lesser purposes. Don't drop it on your foot.

Great reference and exactly what I was after.

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