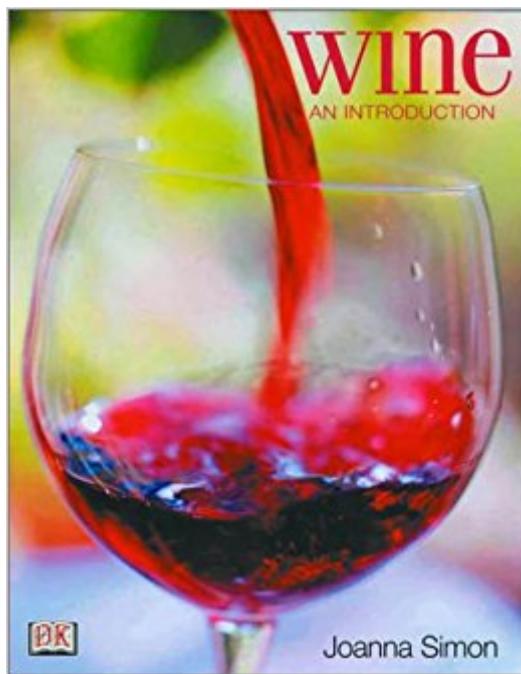


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# Wine: An Introduction



## Synopsis

From the grape to the glass -- a stylish, contemporary guide to experiencing the world of wine. Open the pages of this inspiring guide and you uncork the exciting world of wine. Award-winning wine writer Joanna Simon steers the reader through a tantalizing range of styles, grape varieties, and wine-producing regions and offers refreshingly down-to-earth advice on how to buy, taste, serve, and store wine for maximum enjoyment. Most of us would like to try a wider range of wines, but are reluctant to make an expensive mistake. Joanna Simon helps readers to experiment with confidence and taste new wines that are similar to those they already enjoy. So for instance, if you like Australian Chardonnay, you may also like white wines from Navarra in Spain, Chilean Semillon, or South African Chenin Blanc. Covering over 70 grape varieties, the typical flavors of key varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling are examined in depth. There are expert tips on buying, storing, and tasting wine along with advice on food and wine pairings, essential vintage charts, a glossary of terms, and a useful pronunciation guide. Sumptuous location photography of the vineyards, wineries, and cellars perfectly captures the miraculous process that turns the humble grape into something spectacular in the glass.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joanna Simon is the award-winning wine correspondent of Britain's The Sunday Times newspaper and her weekly column in the Style section is avidly read by those who enjoy wine but want to know more. She is also a successful author and broadcaster and contributes to many publications

worldwide on all aspects of wine, including matching wine to food. Joanna' Simon's previous books include the best-selling Discovering Wine, which has sold over 250,000 copies in 12 languages, and Wine with Food. She has been writing about wine since 1981 and has been editor of both Wine and Wine & Spirit International magazines. In 1999, she presented The Bottle Uncorked, BBC Radio series devoted to wine. When not tasting, writing, talking about wine or visiting the world's vineyards, Joanna spends as much time as possible in a remote part of France. Joanna Simon's awards include: 1992-Glenfiddich Drink Writer of the Year, 1992-Qantas Wine Writer of the Year, 1995-Winner of the Wine Guild of the United Kingdom's Book Award, 1995-Silver Medal from the Gastronomische Akademie Deutschlands, 1997-Premier Cru Wine Writer of the Year.

Great intro book, not intimidating and goes just deep enough for a newbie wine drinker!

Honestly, when it came down to it, I knew pretty much nothing about wine - other than there were a certain few I liked. Finally, tired of feeling overwhelmed when even considering buying a wine, I decided it was time to learn more about the subject - and this book stood out on the shelf. It gives a nice variety of information, apparently, everything needed to start heading into the world of wine. There are plenty of descriptions about the different types of grapes, the flavors each has, and where they are grown. There's a great section on tasting wine, including the various flavors that can be detected, and the proper way to do it. There's a large list of all the different types of wine - making it obviously clear there's more than just white, red, and blush wines. It also tells you how to read the label on a bottle - even those not in English - to find the information about where it's grown, what kind of grapes make up the wine, and such. Thanks to this book, I don't feel quite so lost anymore - but I realize there's a lot more to learn, but this book is like a great guide to help you know what you're looking for now.

This is one of my favourite books on wine. I like the way the book presents Ms Simon's essays, has lists of useful facts and the pictures - gosh, its got pictures of wine grapes so ripe I'm tempted to eat them. Ms Simon's writing is simple and a joy to read, and for a starter book on wine, this is hard to beat. Unfortunately, the negative reviews do have a point. It's not that the book is badly organized - the organization is logical and coherent. What went wrong is that the editors at DK gave a table of contents that makes people guess what's in each chapter. Terrible! An index is no substitute for a proper contents page. A more detailed listing of sub-headings in the table of contents would tell people at a glance what's in the book and where to find it. We shouldn't be made to flip through the

book deciphering exactly where was the part that dealt with deciphering wine labels. sigh. Anyway, a very nice book to have.

If you want a wine book that has great photos this would fit the bill. If you also want a wine book that is very short on substance this is a good choice. As an introductory text, "Wine: An Introduction" leaves a lot out. As a professional sommelier this was my very first text book and I must say that this book did not cover the basics of wine well at all. The book only covers the top 6 main varietal grapes in a moderate level beginner of detail. The rest get anything from a sentence to possibly two paragraphs. Very little information about regions, regional styles, vinification, or the industry surrounding wine makes an appearance. Want to know about grapes? Try buying "Vines, Grapes & Wines". Want to know about regions try "The World Atlas of Wine". Both are available on .com. Both are much, much better books at helping you find your bearings in the stormy seas of wine.

This was the assigned text book for the International Sommelier Guild Level 1 course. The material is well organized and concise. It provides a good introduction to wines from the grape, the regions in which they are grown, the wine making process, how to evaluate wine and food pairing. Joanna Simon provides a good place to start for anyone who wants to enjoy the amazing world of wine.

I purchased this book because it was published by DK. I have come to love all their books. They present a clear and direct path to get their point across. That did not seem the case with this book. There was not a good place to start. Rather it seemed that you had to jump around the book. It contains great information, just not organized the best.

As mentioned by another reviewer, the organization of this book was not ideal. I was disappointed, because usually Simon is a terrific writer. I do like the visual richness of DK books but found their "French Wines" by Robert Joseph to be far superior to this one; wonderful to look at AND to learn from.

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