



The Wine Bible

By Karen MacNeil

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The Wine Bible By Karen MacNeil

Announcing the completely revised and updated edition of *The Wine Bible*, the perennial bestselling wine book praised as “*The most informative and entertaining book I’ve ever seen on the subject*” (Danny Meyer), “*A guide that has all the answers*” (Bobby Flay), “*Astounding*” (Thomas Keller), and “*A magnificent masterpiece of wine writing*” (Kevin Zraly).

Like a lively course from an expert teacher, *The Wine Bible* grounds the reader deeply in the fundamentals while layering on informative asides, tips, amusing anecdotes, definitions, glossaries, photos (all new for this edition), maps, labels, and recommended bottles. Karen MacNeil’s information comes directly through primary research; for this second edition she has tasted more than 10,000 wines and visited dozens of wine regions around the world. New to the book are wines of China, Japan, Mexico, and Slovenia. And through it all the reader becomes ever more informed—and, because of the author’s unique voice, always entertained: “In great years Pétrus is ravishing, elegant, and rich—Ingrid Bergman in red satin.” Or, describing a Riesling: “A laser beam. A sheet of ice. A great crackling bolt of lightning.”

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Editorial Review

Review

“Not everyone can stay engaging, witty, fascinating, knowledgeable and both literary and light for 1000 pages. For that, you need Karen MacNeil.... If you want to be (or sound) wine-savvy on a global scale, this book is a must.” – *Paste Magazine*

"A masterpiece of wine writing. Karen MacNeil has taken her three decades' worth of experience and distilled it into an amazingly approachable, fun, and educational book. It is the best wine book written in years and will remain a classic forever." – Kevin Zraly, author of *Windows on the World Complete Wine Course*

“The most informative and entertaining book I’ve ever seen on the subject.” – Danny Meyer, *CEO, Union Square Hospitality Group*

“Astounding.” – Thomas Keller, chef and owner of *The French Laundry* and *Per Se*

“...the rare 995-page manual to hit all the high notes, offer a balanced view on the history, creation, and current state of wine — and keep it lively” – *Eater*

“MacNeil’s writing style is engaging and conversational, and if you want to know anything about wine her book is the place to start” – *Forbes.com*

“...grab a copy, open it, and start in on a random page. There will be something worth savoring.” – *Travel + Leisure.com*

"When Ms. MacNeil charts the ascending tannin levels in red wine grapes, she compares the gritty stuff to Clint Eastwood’s five-o’clock shadow. The body of this bible is a country-by-country march through winedom, offering lively regional history, sketches of notable personalities, as well as tips on the best local wines and the foods to match with them.” – *Wall Street Journal*

“America’s most famous book on wine.” – *Napa Sonoma Magazine*

About the Author

Karen MacNeil is the only U.S. winner of every major wine award in the English language, including the James Beard Outstanding Wine and Spirits Professional of the Year (2004). She is the host of *Wine, Food and Friends with Karen MacNeil* (PBS nationally); a writer whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Food & Wine*, *Saveur*, and *Town & Country*; and chairman emeritus of the Rudd Center for Professional Wine Studies at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley. As a consultant, Karen creates wine seminars for corporate clients, including Lexus, Merrill Lynch, Disney, and GE. She lives in St. Helena, California, and online at karenmacneil.com.

INTRODUCTION

WHY WINE MATTERS

During the ten years it took to write the first edition of *The Wine Bible* and the four years it took to write this second edition, I have often asked myself why wine matters. What is it about wine that I hold so deeply? What is this endless attachment?

I have always known what it is not. It's not about scoring or competitive analysis, though like any wine pro, I'm game for the next blind tasting. And it's not about the need to retell what I have learned, though I can lie awake for hours thinking about how to capture a wine in words.

Perhaps it is this: I love wine because it is one of the last true things. In a world digitized to distraction, a world where you can't get out of your pajamas without your cell phone, wine remains utterly primary. Unrushed. The silent music of nature. For eight thousand years, vines clutching the earth have thrust themselves upward toward the sun and given us juicy berries, and ultimately wine. In every sip taken in the present, we drink in the past—the moment in time when those berries were picked; a moment gone but recaptured—and so vivid that our bond with nature is welded deep.

Wine matters because of this ineluctable connection. Wine and food cradle us in our own communal humanity. Anthropologically, they are the pleasures that carried life forward and sustained us through the sometimes dark days of our own evolution.

Drinking wine then—as small as that action can seem—is both grounding and transformative. It reminds us of other things that matter, too: love, friendship, generosity.

The Wine Bible has taken me a long time to write—in some ways I've spent the better part of my last twenty years on it. It has taken this long not because it takes a long time to accumulate the facts, but because it takes a long time to *feel* a place—culturally, historically, aesthetically.

And so, on my mission to understand the wine regions of the world, I've danced the tango (awkwardly) with Argentinian men to try to understand malbec; drunk amarone while eating horsemeat (a tradition) in the Veneto; sipped wine from hairy goatskin bags in northern Greece (much as the ancients would have); and been strapped into a contraption that lowers pickers down into perilously steep German vineyards (an experience that momentarily convinces you your life is over).

I've shared wine and cigars with bullfighters in Rioja; ridden through the vineyards of Texas on horseback; eaten octopus and drunk assyrtiko with Greek fishermen in Santorini (considered by some to be the lost Atlantis); and picked tiny oyster shells from among the fossilized sea creatures that make up the moonscape soils of Chablis.

I've waltzed among wine barrels with winemakers in Vienna; stomped grapes with Portuguese picking crews until my legs were purple, and worked for weeks with a Mexican harvest crew in California, one of the hardest and most rewarding experiences I've ever had.

These encounters brought wine so vividly into my life that I ultimately moved to Napa Valley on the sheer belief that living near vines would touch my heart in ways imaginable and not.

And so it has.

—Karen MacNeil

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Quincy Eddy:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a e-book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of The Wine Bible book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Rita Heil:

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Helen Samuel:

Is it an individual who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Wine Bible can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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