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Champagne (Classic Wine Library)

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Synopsis

Through an introduction to the Champagne region, the history of the wine and the development of the champagne method, this book traces champagne’s beginnings as a still wine and, via the appointment of a young monk, Dom Pierre Perignon, as Cellarer at the Abbey of Hautvillers, its evolution into the sparkling wine known today. An examination of wine making and the vine varieties is accompanied by an overall look at the Champagne makers, from small growers to the great houses such as Krug, Moet et Chandon, Pol Roger and Veuve Clicquot. There are also notes on the vintages for each year since 1945.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While there are many books about Champagne and sparkling wines in general, describing the bubbles and colors, there are very few that go into the history and background of this most famous celebratory drink. That’s where "Champagne" comes in!This book begins with the geology of the Champagne region, located northeast of Paris. It describes the chalk beds and limestone that forms the basis of the soil, and how these conditions are perfect for the grapes that make up Champagne.Next, "Champagne" goes into the early history of the region, describing the various groups that fought over the soil, explaining how the conversion to Christianity of its early holders led to foundations of monastaries. These monastaries becames the curators of the vineyards, developing vineyard techniques and blending systems.The important developments necessary for a sparkling wine are covered - the thicker bottles, the cork to seal the bottle, and of course Dom

Perignon, the blind monk whose keen palate and in depth knowledge led to the beginning of a reputation for this region.The laws over the years are covered in depth, with histories of the regulations given. The book describes purning systems and vineyard techniques, explaining how the grapes are grown. It lists the famous "Champagne widows" who furthered the cause of many wineries here.The appendices list the members of the Union of Wine Producers, gives the Bollinger Charter of ethics and Quality, describes the seven orders in Champagne, provides a vintage chart, and gives a full list of all premiere crus.This would definitely be the book for someone who has already gone through the "introduction to Champagne" books, and now wants an in depth history of the region, its geology, its policital background and legislative situations.

Great book, lots of information on ’le’ and ’la’ Champagne! For me, it lost one star as ’The Makers’ overview is not that comprehensive and consistent as the one in Stevenson’s encyclopedia. However, this book is certainly a ’strong buy’ - let the bubbles go!

As the owner of grapeseek.com I’m pleased to give this book the two thumbs up! It’s a delightful book...and the only one I’ll ever need in reference to champagne and the Champagne region of France. It contains maps, lists of the wine producer’s unions, history of the region and growing information. I would have liked the book more had it included some actual pictures of this beautiful wine and wine region but if you want to learn about champagne this is the best I’ve seen on the subject. I’ll definitely bring it with me the next time I visit Epernay!

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