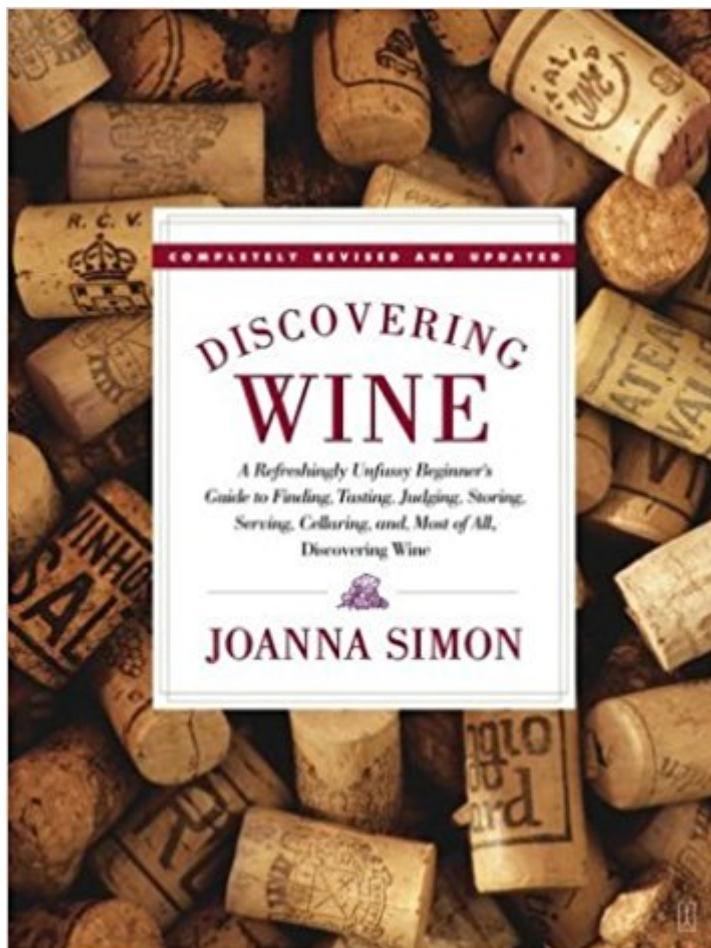


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Discovering Wine



Synopsis

Discovering Wine has been hailed by new and experienced wine lovers everywhere as the classic, approachable introduction to the luscious world of wine. In this revised and updated edition, Simon addresses the latest wine trends and provides brand-new information on vintages recently established in countries and continents around the globe. More than 250 full-color photographs, maps, and charts beautifully complement Simon's effervescent approach to the fascinating world of wine, and help to dispel the mystique that so often surrounds the subject. She provides the crucial hints that will help you to become a wine aficionado "virtually overnight. You will learn how to

- Taste and judge wine like an expert
- Correctly match food and wine
- Follow the newest guidelines for serving and storing your wines
- Discern classic wines from those that emulate them
- Understand the importance and role of grapes
- Know when a particular wine is ready to drink

In addition to demystifying wine, Simon explores famous vineyards and explains how the winemakers use grapes to their most delicious advantage. And after a concise but thorough roundup of today's wine styles, Simon conducts a tour through the wine regions of the world "from Chianti to Coonawarra, from MÃ©doc to Moldova, and everywhere in between. As entertaining as it is informative, Discovering Wine is destined to remain the definitive beginner's guide to wine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a beginner. When I received "Discovering Wine" by Joanna Simon as a gift, I felt intimidated. Would it be stuffy or over my head? Its strength is in the simple presentation of the facts. The

chapters are clearly titled, like "Matching food with wine" and "Ways to store your wine." The writing is clean, though it comes across slightly elitist (ex: choosing 'wend' instead of 'wind,' noting a certain country produces a 'credible' variety of wine). It is balanced by an encyclopedic style, providing insight into the basics of wine appreciation. Many countries are highlighted for their vineyards and wines. Learn which wines are made where, and how the process is distinguished from country to country. The pictures are sharp, beautiful and informative. You'll see terraces of Germany, hills of Tuscany, and the mountains of Peru in sheer splendor and relevance. Especially useful for me was the lexicon of tasting terms, a brief lesson on wine tasting and what to look for, and a discussion (with perfect pictures) on which glasses and decanters to use. The weakest aspect of the book was the chapter on matching food and wine, but the weakness was not in the content, but in the brevity. Ten pages should have been 20. I fully recommend "Discovering Wine" by Joanna Simon as a first book. Anthony Trendl

Overall, this was a nice introduction to wine. However, it was obviously written in the early nineties, so the good year/bad year tips on many of the white wines that were not meant to age for ten years are kind of useless today (For some wines, 1987 may have been a good year if you drank it in 1991, but in 2001 it might taste a little closer to vinegar than you prefer.) But if you learn enough to know that the book you are reading is outdated, then you must have learned something. Three stars.

The book does a good job of briefing novice and experienced wine drinkers. I like the section on regions and explanations of varietals. Great coffee table book to educate and get friends interested in wines.

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