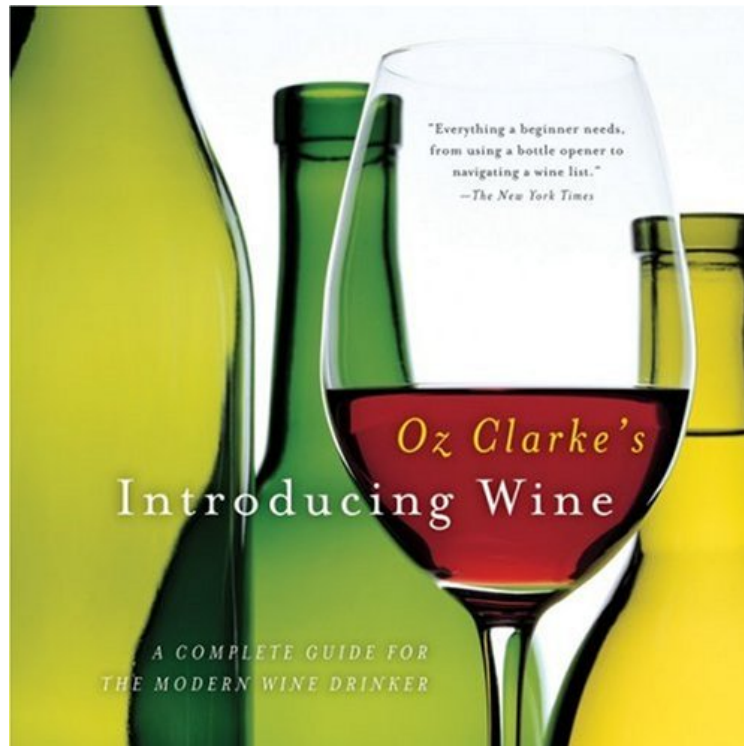


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Oz Clarke's Introducing Wine: A Complete Guide for the Modern Wine Drinker

Oz Clarke

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Oz Clarke : Oz Clarke's Introducing Wine: A Complete Guide for the Modern Wine Drinker before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oz Clarke's Introducing Wine: A Complete Guide for the Modern Wine Drinker:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect intro book for anyone wanting to learn about wineBy Erica1981 Perfect intro book for anyone wanting to learn about wine. Introduces them to varietals, terms, flavor profiles, all the basics...10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Good First GuideBy Carleton WuA very good introduction to the world of wine. Clarke spends the majority of the book discussing the basics: what to expect from different varieties of wine, and what to expect from the various geographical regions where wine is produced. He spends little time on specific labels (although he does offer a few suggestions), so if you are looking for a buying guide this is not your book. It does not go into much depth, but it does a fine job of covering the subject in a light, engaging manner.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerA very handy reference.

Now available in paperback, Oz Clarke's Introducing Wine is a handy beginner's guide to the world of wine. Starting with descriptions of the full spectrum of wine flavors, Clarke then provides an excellent guide to tasting, serving, and storing wine; how to order wine in a restaurant; and even what all that jargon means. Finally, he wraps up with a wide-

ranging exploration of the regions, grapes, styles, and wine producers, with completely updated lists of wines to try from each region. Perfect for the new oenophile or any reader looking to review wine basics, Clarke's concise, accessible, and entertaining reference is the most complete introductory book on wine available.

.com Oz Clarke, it seems, has sobered up. Maybe it was that phantom champagne shortage of New Year's Eve 1999. Maybe it was the realization that the new millennium actually began one year later. Either way, the 2001 edition of the perennially updated purse-sized portable wine reference by the prolific and unpretentious winner of both Julia Child and James Beard awards for wine and spirits writing marks a welcome return to form. Purchasers of his 2000 edition may recall his indulgence in a bit of freeform, faux-fin-de-sicle frivolity: the chapter charting a brief history of himself via bottles consumed; the crystal ball/navel-gazing predictions of both China's emergence as a wine-growing power and the repeal of France's Appellation Controllee system. He's lighthearted and entertaining no doubt, but occasionally sounding of someone dipping into the magnum of Billecart-Salmon 1990 a year early. But with Oz Clarke's Pocket Wine Guide 2001, the author has awakened from his lampshade-wearing night before and freshly pressed his comfortably stylish strong suit to again provide readers with one of the best all-purpose alphabetical wine references available. One hesitates to recommend annual purchasing of annual wine guides; frequently, "totally revised and updated" means some bolder print here, a vintage change from "Hold" to "Drink" there. But Clarke's 2001 edition, with its A-to-Z encompassing of the world of wine, features newly expanded and highlighted entries for, among others, the Barossa and Napa regions, making for an informative wine shop companion. It's an opinionated one, too: he'll crustily denounce "Millennium obsession" like an enophilic Andy Rooney (although his previous edition was drenched in it) while discussing up-and-coming wineries with some personal faves, though the chapter "Modern Wine Styles" is a virtual reprint from the 2000 edition. And there are some deletions. Don't bother looking up "Denominazione di Origine Controllata"; after sleeping off Y2K, even Oz wants no hair of the DOC. --Tony Mason

From Booklist

When it comes to a beverage suitable for vegetarians to enjoy at mealtime, what could be more appropriate than wine? It's an ancient drink, its health benefits have been known since biblical times, it contains no animal products, and it's nearly universally available to adults. British oenophile Oz Clarke has produced a new primer on wine that combines some of the best approaches from previous books into a highly useful reference. Oz Clarke's *Introducing Wine* groups all wines into fifteen categories that define each one's major characteristics. Well-structured tables organize additional data for easy accessibility. Shunning the high-flown language of many books for the wine novice, Clarke teaches practical, useful terms and techniques that demystify without sacrificing pleasure. His approach benefits further from a nonexclusionary stance that embraces equally all the world's wines, not just those from France, Italy, and California. Mark Knoblauch

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PRAISE FOR OZ CLARKE'S INTRODUCING WINE

"Everything a beginner needs, from using a bottle opener to navigating a wine list." -The New York Times