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# Wine Grapes: A Complete Guide To 1,368 Vine Varieties, Including Their Origins And Flavours



## Synopsis

Wine enthusiasts everywhere rejoice! *Wine Grapes* provides absolutely everything the connoisseur wants to know about the succulent, remarkable fruit that care, love, skill, and time transform into humankind's most beloved beverage—and presents it all in a stunningly beautiful, gorgeously illustrated package. The dazzling co-creation of Jancis Robinson, one of the world's best known wine authorities, Julia Harding, who passed the Master of Wine exams at the top of her class, and internationally renowned botanist Joselyn Vouillamoz, *Wine Grapes* is the first complete compendium in more than a century to all grape varieties relevant to the wine lover. An exquisite gift book—and a must-own for anyone in the food and wine industry—*Wine Grapes* charts the relationships of the grapes (with some astounding family trees), discusses in fascinating detail where and how they are grown, and, most importantly, what the wines made from them will ultimately taste like.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James Beard Awards, Best Beverage Book (2012)Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, Hall of Fame for Best Wine Book (2012)Wine & Spirits magazine, Best Drinks Book (2012)Roederer Awards, Faiveley International Wine Book of the Year (2013)OIV Awards, Best Viticulture Book (2013)Fortnum & Mason Food and Drink Awards, Best Drink Book (2012)André Simon Awards, Best Drink Book (2012)A fantastic Christmas present for any wine geek, and one that will provide an endless source of fiendish questions for quiz-setters (The Guardian) —A magnificent

achievement: colossally informative, illuminating and intriguing (Decanter.com) This book is a thing of beauty - classic, well written and splendidly illustrated - and will be a point of reference for decades to come. (Bordeaux Undiscovered) “The most important wine book in years. (Tom Wark, Fermentation)

An indispensable book for every wine lover, from some of the world’s leading wine experts. Where do wine grapes come from and how are grape varieties related to one another? What is the historical background of each one? Where are they grown? What sort of wines do they make? Using cutting-edge DNA analysis and detailing almost 1,400 distinct grape varieties, as well as myriad correct (and incorrect) synonyms, this book examines grapes and wine as never before. Here is a complete, alphabetically presented profile of all grape varieties of relevance to the wine lover, charting the relationships between them and including unique and astounding family trees, their characteristics in the vineyard, and •most important• what the wines made from them taste like. Presented in a stunning design with eight-page gatefolds that reveal the family trees, and a rich variety of full-color illustrations from Viala and Vermorel’s century-old classic ampelography, the text will deepen readers’ understanding of grapes and wine with every page. Combining Jancis Robinson’s worldview and nose for good writing and good wines with Julia Harding’s research, expertise, and attention to detail plus Dr. Vouillamoz’s unique level of scholarship, *Wine Grapes* offers essential and original information in greater depth and breadth than has ever been available before. This is a book for wine students, wine experts, and wine lovers everywhere.

For years I’ve loved Jancis Robinson’s pocket-sized *Â Guide to Wine Grapes*, turning to it whenever I encounter a new wine grape. Alas, it is long out of print, and a bit dated in terms of the relationships between grapes. Now comes this new volume, which is anything but pocket-sized. Massive and slip-cased, it has the gravitas of an aged Premier Cru. For each of nearly 1400 varieties there is an entry that gives you its color (from among five choices), common synonyms (for some widely grown grapes there are many), other varieties it is often mistaken for, and what is known of its origins and heritage (relying on recent, extensive, DNA testing of wine grapes). Then there is a brief summary of how it grows (vigor, resistance, when it ripens, and the like) and where it grows. As warranted, there is a discussion of what it tastes like and the quality of the wine it produces. Many of these grapes are actually very marginal from a wine making viewpoint, and are of interest for historical or relationship reasons. (I do miss the little sliding bar from the earlier book

that suggested at a glance the likelihood of the grape producing a decent wine.) The relationship information is fascinating. Selected grapes have a family tree associated with their entry. Looking at Cabernet Sauvignon we learn that Chenin Blanc is a sister of Sauvignon Blanc and, hence, an aunt of Cabernet Sauvignon. Freisa turns out to be a cross of Nebbiolo with an unknown grape. The foldout genealogy of Pinot Noir is remarkable. Who would have guessed that Lagrein is a granddaughter of Pinot, while Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah are both great granddaughters? On a down side, the figure is sewn so deeply into the binding that part of the tree can't be read. I decided to check on a grape of local (but not wine drinking!) interest. In the earlier book there is an entry for the Mission grape, the first wine grape brought to California; there is was associated with the Monica grape. The current volume doesn't have an entry for Mission (it has entries pointing you to a main entry for some synonyms, but not for others). Checking the index it turns out that Mission is actually Listan Prieto. (Which I'd certainly never heard of before.) There are also beautiful color plates, originally published in France over a century ago, of selected grapes. (Interestingly, one is labeled "Mission"!)

But there are, alas, some imperfections. I've mentioned how the Pinot family tree is bound so that it is not all readable. While the paper in a volume this size is necessarily thin, the see-through on some pages is annoying; more opaque paper would have been nice. The label on the front of the slip case is somewhat crooked, and the one on the edge quite so. Production quality could have been better. Had this been a standard book at half or even two-thirds the price it would have been an easy five stars. But in a slip-cased book at this list price you expect a little better attention to detail than this book manages. So I reluctantly drop my rating to four stars. Still an excellent investment for or gift to a devoted oenophile, it is not quite the value it could have been with a little better physical execution.

This book is amazing. It has become my go to for talking points about obscure grapes in my role as a sommelier. Some people have complained about the quality of the binding but I have seen none of that. Maybe it was a problem with an earlier edition that has been corrected. Illustrations are beautiful and there is a f@&\$-ton of information here. Best book I've bought this year.

Excellent info and very interesting, though a bit overwhelming and goes into detail on more grapes than I'll ever need to know about. On the other hand, I've just gotten started using the reference book and have already found two additional sources of wine from a rare grape in Italy that is in very small commercial production. I'm very happy with the purchase, especially at the e-book price.

Gift for my son-in-law. He wanted it, he got it, he loves it.

Great book. The second printing took care of the problem with the charts being unreadable.

Amazing book , I'm very glad to buy. Very didactic and good to learn about grapes .Highly recommended .

Complete. Excellent.

The must have wine book!

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