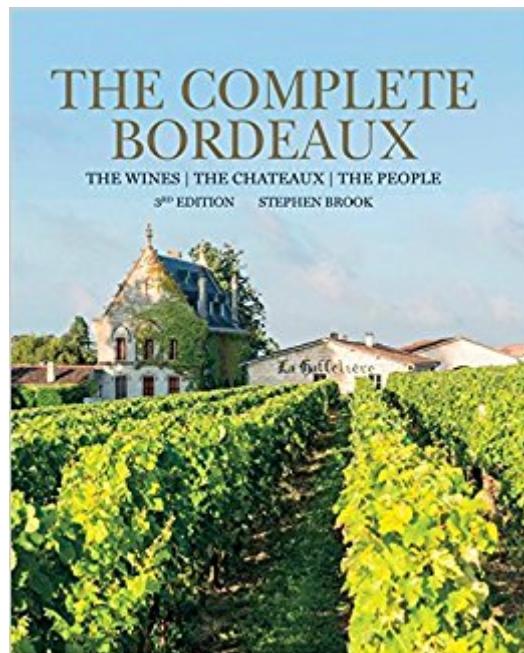


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The Complete Bordeaux



Synopsis

The wines of Bordeaux are universally recognized as being among the finest in the world and in this fully revised and updated edition of his classic text, renowned wine expert Stephen Brook provides an unrivalled survey of the region and its wines. The Complete Bordeaux offers detailed information on the many communes and appellations of Bordeaux as well as descriptions and assessments of all its major properties. As well as incisive portraits of the leading properties and their produce, Stephen Brook provides a detailed look at Bordeaux's lesser-known areas and chateaux. There is also an invaluable vintage guide to the last four decades. Bordeaux encapsulates an incredible 13,000 wineries throughout 54 appellations and this book includes a thorough explanation of Bordeaux's history, terroir, and winemaking styles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Brook is a leading writer on wine and gastronomy. His previous books include Sauternes, The Wines of Germany, and The Wines of California, which won the Prix Lanson, Glenfiddich and Veuve Clicquot awards. He is also the author of Pauillac and Bordeaux: People, Power and Politics, which won the Veuve Clicquot and ICP awards. He revised the lastest edition of Hugh Johnson's Wine Companion.

You may not know the name Stephen Brook off the tip of your tongue, but if you love wine, then youÃ¢Â™ve probably read his words. He has several wine books and, in particular, has revised

the latest editions of Hugh Johnson's Wine Companion. His books include Sauternes, The Wines of Germany, and The Wines of California. The Complete Bordeaux may be his signature work. This third edition is a serious update of the 2012 edition. How much can change in a mere five years? A significant amount because of the complexity inherent in this landscape. As Stephen writes: "Bordeaux is more than a wine. It is an interconnected universe of interest, all focusing the fate of millions of vines as they negotiate their way through an uncertain climate." Bordeaux is big and small. Small because, being very generous, it is no more than 50 by 60 miles and only the diagonal of that rectangle is grape intensive. The southwest and northeast corners are vineyard free. Yet, in that little slice of France, there are over 13,000 wineries arrayed in 54 appellations. That enormity may explain why The Complete Bordeaux is over 700 pages long, very densely packed pages. This is simply a monumental book. A total of 16 elegant maps are interspersed in the book to offer you a colorful tour of the total landscape and the individual regions. After an Introduction covering the history, the geography and the wine style of Bordeaux, there are six primary sections, each with multiple chapters, devoted to specific geographic areas of Bordeaux: The Left Bank: The Medoc, The Left Bank: The Graves, The Right Bank: St-Emilion, The Right Bank: Pomerol, Other Regions of Bordeaux, Sweet Wines. What is the level of detail and design here? Let's look at one of the St-Emilion chapters. First, there is a discussion of the local terroir: the weather, the soil, the impact on the grapes when the roots penetrate the soil and strike the underlining rock. How do the roots respond, how do they turn, how deep is the soil? Yes, that kind of detail. Then Stephen describes many, although not all to be sure, of the wineries in the region. A part of a page or up to two pages presents: General info: phone, website, owner, Appellation, Size, Grapes grown, Production [bottle per year]. Those facts are followed by a description of the wine making technique and the factors that give this winery its notes of distinction. Stephen has been tasting these wines for decades and happily presents a discussion, for a specific winery, of how wines from the 60s and 70s and on compare. If you can purchase a 1987 bottle from Chateau Angelus, for example, you should for it remains fully ready, leafy, rounded, and reasonably fresh. The insights into history, tastes, and changes go for page after page. This is a book that you won't finish in one night. Perhaps not in one lifetime. The Complete Bordeaux is work of both wine and love. This new edition is the ultimate guide to perhaps the greatest wine area in the world. Whether you use the book in your local wine store or tote it on a journey to Bordeaux itself, this book is definitive. And magnificent.

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