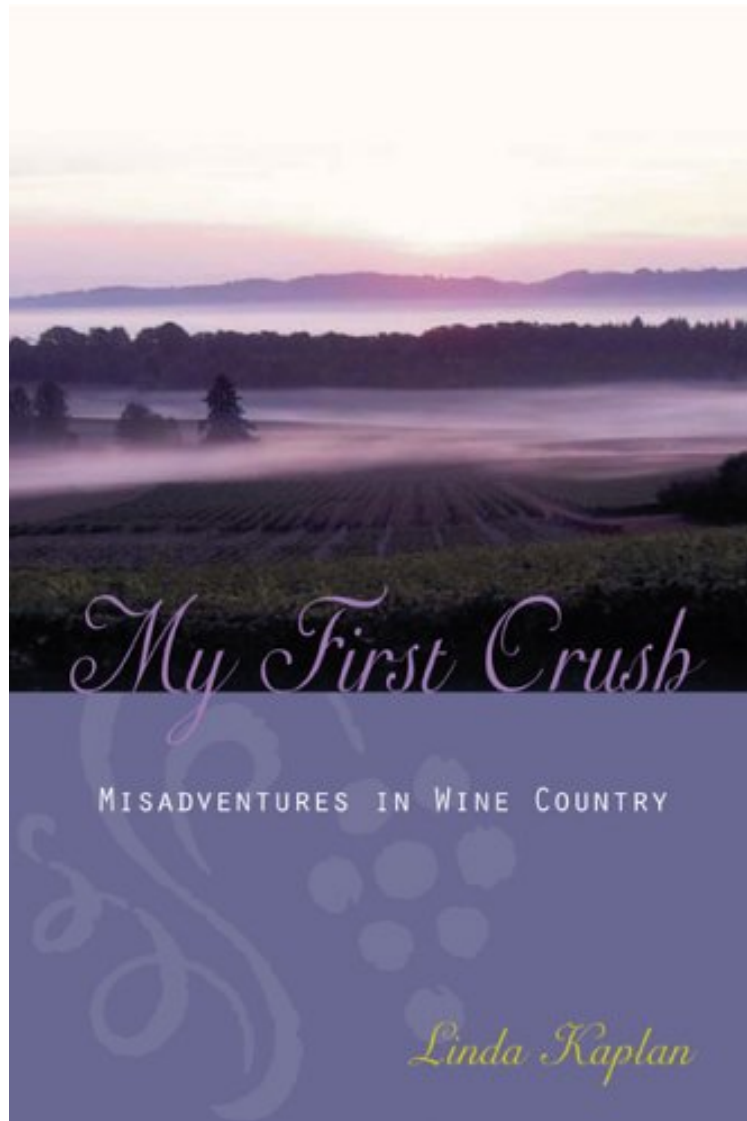


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My First Crush: Misadventures in Wine Country

Linda Kaplan

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Linda Kaplan : My First Crush: Misadventures in Wine Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My First Crush: Misadventures in Wine Country:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Please print more copies of this book!By S. Y. K.I am probably biased since I was a fan of Panther Creek before I found this book, but I found it fascinating and enlightening to peak into the world of wine making. Living in the Willamette valley close to so many scenic vineyards and wineries it is easy to romanticize and fantasize about chucking your day job and buying a winery or vineyard. Linda Kaplan brings reality into the dream and truly makes you appreciate fine wine.I wanted copies to give to friends along with a bottle

of wine and I was so disappointed to learn it is out of print. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My First Crush a Sensation By Natalie Dell Linda Kaplan's My First Crush is a delightful read that put me in mind of The Number One Ladies Detective Agency and A Year in Provence, for the wonderful characters in her terrific memoir. You want to spend time with these people and especially the author herself. Linda weaves her tale of a heroic move from the midwest to accommodate her husband's dream of owning a winery through beautiful imagery and engaging prose. Her humor is wise, wistful and sneaks up on you until you're laughing out loud. Like a fine Pinot Noir, open the cover, let it breathe and you'll get a whiff of an engaging romp through wine country. Delicious. Can't wait for her next book! 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Interested in Wine and the People Who Make It? By Jeremy C. Schubert Linda Kaplan's book, "My First Crush," is a fun and informative romp through Oregon's wine country. From the colorful town and townspeople of McMinnville to the creepy crawlers on the grape sorting line (and I don't just mean insects), Linda is able to bring winemaking to life. Inserted throughout the memoir style writing are helpful sidebars which describe winemaking and wine drinking in more detail. From the way that soil and microclimate affect the grapes to holding your own tasting. I couldn't put this book down and I don't even know that much about wine. I have to say, I know more now.

When Linda Kaplan's husband quit his law firm in Des Moines and bought Panther Creek, a vineyard in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Kaplan went along for the ride, though she couldn't tell an earthy wine with a hint of cherries from a glass of grape juice. It didn't matter: They were going to make pinot noir in a small town, and they would learn how or go crazy trying. Kaplan wryly reveals in her memoir that the result was a bit of both. There are chapters on the science of wine, on the oddballs who show up for harvest, on telling a good grape from a great grape, and a good wine from a great wine. Kaplan sheds light on the mysteries of marketing wine, the connoisseurs who like to test the newcomers, and the messy business of stomping grapes barefoot. There's even a recipe for making thirty-six thousand bottles of Panther Creek's fine pinot noir. But Kaplan wasn't only learning about wine. She was also learning about life, about getting along in her new hometown, McMinnville, which seems ripped right from the script of television's Northern Exposure. Panther Creek has since become an award-winning vineyard, its wine on Wine Spectator magazine's list of the Top 100 Wines of the World.

From Publishers Weekly Chronicling the first years Kaplan and her husband owned and ran Panther Creek, a winery in Oregon's Willamette Valley, this book is as sweetly tart as a pinot noir grape and just as likely to appeal to oenophiles. A wine novice and new empty-nester in Iowa, Kaplan was suddenly thrust into the wine-making world when her husband left his lucrative law practice and bought Panther Creek. As Kaplan soon learns, making wine is not easy, and the learning curve is steep. Her insiders guide to the industry—describing the rigor of the harvest, the dangerous guessing game that is fermentation and the endless salesmanship wrapped up in hosting wine tastings and wine dinners and entering wine contests—is an unflinching look at a difficult job. She also offers many sidebars with useful information about wine (e.g., why latitude matters when making wine; how to organize a wine tasting), though some readers, particularly the wine savvy, may be skeptical initially of taking advice from someone who stumbled into the business armed with Wine for Dummies. While Kaplan sometimes seems too much like a "trailer" (a woman following her husband on his dream) and one never gets the feeling that the couple, who at one point cruise the Oregon countryside in their Miata, were ever in dire financial straits, this is still a warm, behind-the-scenes look at the wine business and an inspiring tale of a couple starting over midlife. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. My First Crush is a delicious book, not unlike the suave Pinot Noirs the Kaplans craft at Panther Creek. It's provocative, understated and witty, with layers of complexity hiding just beneath the surface... Kaplan's considerable wit shines throughout My First Crush. [It] is one of the best accounts written about life in the Oregon wine industry.— Andy Perdue, Wine Press Northwest, Summer 2005 issue If you've ever had a fantasy about starting a completely new life in a completely new place (and who hasn't?), you'll love My First Crush. Linda Kaplan gives us a taste of the romantic dream of owning a winery as well as its messy, sticky reality. She shares her successes, her failures and a few of her own slightly wacky schemes. For instance, who knew that falconry was one of the skills a winemaker needed to master? Well, Linda thought so. I suggest you uncork a bottle of Panther Creek Pinot Noir, pour yourself a glass, pull your best reading chair into a sunny spot and savor the fruits of Linda's labors, both this book and her wine. You'll be glad she did all the work and you can just sit back and enjoy. I am making this book required reading for all my friends who start a conversation with the phrase "You know what I am really dying to do one day..." They'll be both inspired and forewarned.—Liz Dolan Co-Host, Satellite Sisters Radio Co-Author, Satellite Sisters Uncommon Senses