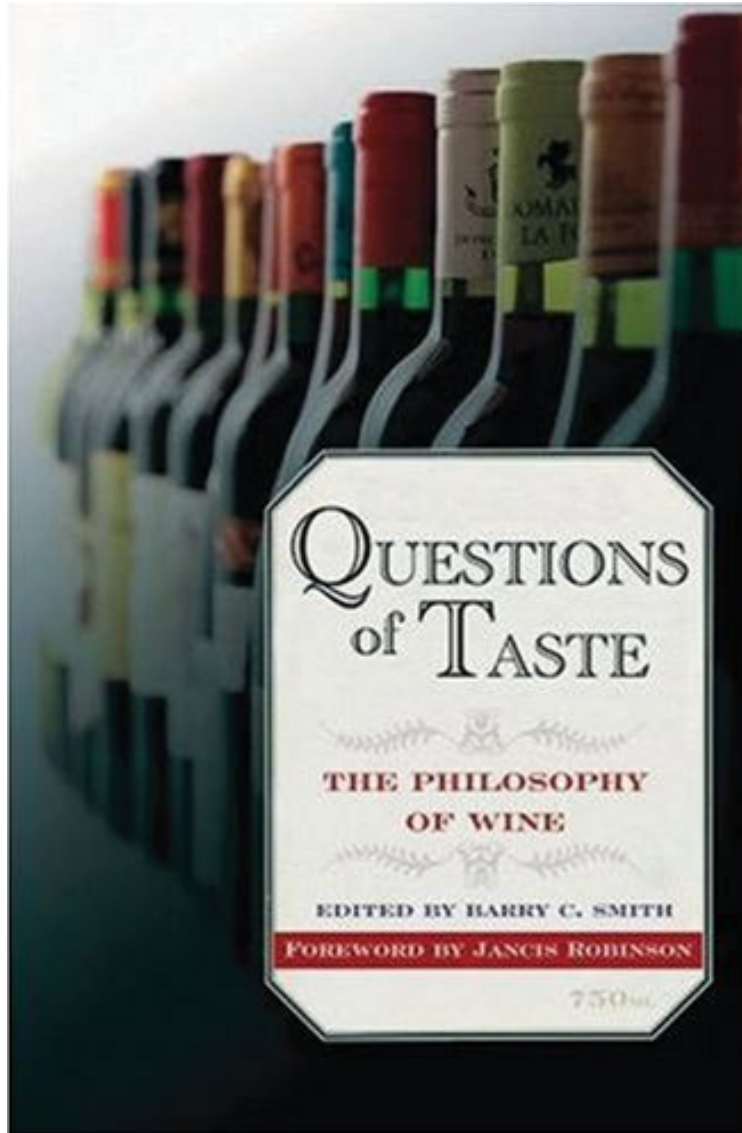


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Questions of Taste: The Philosophy of Wine

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From Oxford University Press : Questions of Taste: The Philosophy of Wine before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Questions of Taste: The Philosophy of Wine:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Background in Philosophy and a Love of Wine By FlippyI wouldn't recommend this book unless you are either philosophically minded (i.e. have a background in philosophy) or enjoy scholarly essays. This book is not an introduction to wine, it is not about families in vineyards, about wine lovers and wine-makers sharing their personal tales about wine and the wine experience (although Chapter 10 does focus on

Ridge winemaker, Paul Draper and his opinions about wine and wine culture - if you can pick this book up at the library, just read his interview with wine writer Andrew Jefford. It is the most accessible part of the book, revealing the depth and passion of a widely-read, world traveled California winemaker). If you took a philosophy class in university and didn't enjoy it, I suggest something else. This book is dry, reminiscent of philosophical journals I had to read as an undergraduate. As much as I loved this book, treasured each individual essay, I know it isn't for everyone. The book doesn't focus on grape varieties, doesn't talk about the history of wine, etc... But again, I loved it. Ten essays, all of them focusing on the philosophical questions circulating around wine appreciation and apprehension. There is discussion about the science of wine, the science of the brain, subjectivity vs. objectivity. If this gets you going, I recommend this book. I found the reading fascinating but slow going, often pausing, putting the book aside over some of the more difficult to grasp concepts. Each essay is worth several reads, if not to enjoy the prose and the arguments but to further dwell on the questions presented. The one question I still come back to: is wine art? Roger Scruton would argue against it as would Tim Crane in this volume. It is a question I often put to my colleagues in the wine industry and the discussion always comes up with something new. Again, this is a great read, one of my favourites in the literature of wine (The Judgment of Paris by George Taber another) but not for everybody. If you want the challenge and are prepared for it, I say go for it. Others interested in philosophy of wine, check out 'Wine Philosophy' edited Frit Allhoff... both are great but the latter is suitable for a larger audience. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer excellent 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Questions of Taste: The Philosophy of Wine By Art Pacho I like this book to know the language of wine tasting from the view point of wine growers, wine makers, consumers, and philosophers. Clarity, simplicity, and emphatic - the true virtue of the good book. Now read it with a glass of Cabernet on hand.

Interest in wine has steadily increased in recent years, with people far more sophisticated about wine than they used to be, and with more and more books being written about it, not to mention the success of films like Sideways. And, inevitably, those who take a serious interest in wine find themselves asking questions about it that are at heart philosophical. Questions of Taste is the first book to tackle these questions, illuminating the philosophical issues surrounding our love of wine. Featuring lucid essays by top philosophers, a linguist, a biochemist, and a winemaker and wine critic, this book applies their critical and analytical skills to answer--or at least understand--many thorny questions. Does the experience of wine lie in the glass or in our minds? Does the elaborate language we use to describe wine--alluding to the flavors of cheese or fruit, or to a wine's suppleness or brawniness--really mean anything at all? Can two people taste one wine in the same way? Does a wine expert enjoy wine more than a novice? How much should we care about what experts say about wine? These questions and others are not just the concern of the wine lover, but go to the heart of how we think about the world around us--and are the province of the philosopher. With a foreword by leading wine authority Jancis Robinson (editor of the Oxford Companion to Wine), this volume will be of interest to anyone who thinks seriously about the experience of enjoying wine, as well as those interested in seeing philosophy applied to the world of the everyday.

From Booklist This collection of essays springs from a recent London congress of wine experts investigating what, if any, words might possibly convey the sensual experience of drinking wine. These disquisitions on the ways humans discriminate among similar bottlings, evaluate their experiences, and communicate those experiences to one another summon the very specialized lexicon of philosophical aesthetics. To the uninitiated, this quest for a vocabulary of wine verges on the effete, but to connoisseurs, this effort lies at the heart of their craft and constitutes the sole way to share a unique and evanescent experience. Although the essays in this collection focus on wine, the insights and conclusions can apply to food in general as well as to any other aesthetically grounded endeavors. The serious wine drinker seeking deeper knowledge and a more meticulous appreciation of his favorite beverage will take from these essays a glimpse into deep and subtle structures of the human mind. Knoblauch, Mark "Questions of Taste is enjoyable to read and clearly written with references at the end of several essays."--L.E. Erickson, CHOICE "This is a book best read with a glass of wine in hand The wine will also be a good study aid, allowing you to read test the ideas the moment they are presented."--New York Times "The serious wine drinker seeking deeper knowledge and a more meticulous appreciation of his favorite beverage will take from these essays a glimpse into deep and subtle structures of the human mind."--Booklist "The net effect is of an enjoyably thought-provoking curiosity."--Wine and Spirit "The questions it wrestles with intoxicate the mind."--The Times Higher Education Supplement "[The contributors] prove themselves well up to the task of situating wine-centred questions within a larger framework of questions about taste and perception, subjectivity and objectivity, and aesthetic appraisal more generally."--The Times Literary Supplement "This collection adds an engaging set of voices to the conversation with ten nicely matched essays on wine.... The potential readership of this book is wide.... this book is both a serious and an enjoyable contribution to the philosophical study of a subject that is itself both serious and enjoyable: wine."--Christine Korsmeyer, British Journal of Aesthetics "This collection of essays is a gem, covering topics such as what we mean by 'fine wine', how we translate flavours on to the palate, and the interaction between wine and the brain."--Tim Atkin, The Observer "This

collection of insightful essays addresses the experience, the language, taste, art, more. Drink and think."--
Newsday.com "This compilation of lucid essays by top philosophers, a linguist, a biochemist, a winemaker and wine
critic addresses such questions as: Does the experience of wine lie in the glass or in the mind? Does a wine expert
enjoy wine more than a novice? How much should we care what experts say about a wine?"--Pittsburgh Post-
Gazette About the Author Barry Smith is Professor of Philosophy at the University of London.