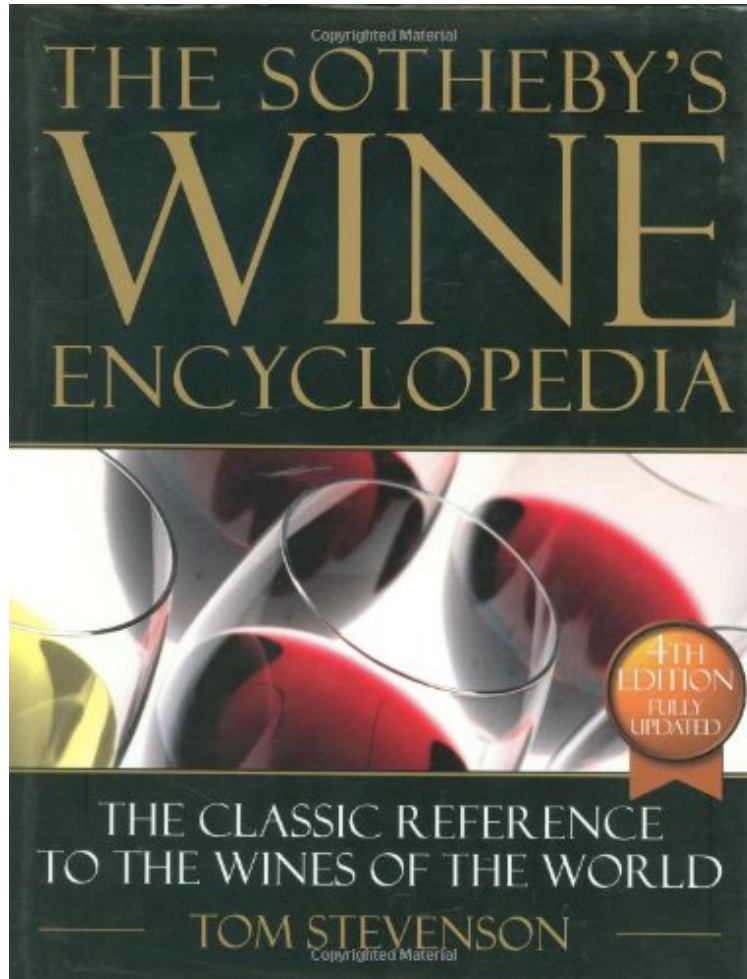


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Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia

Tom Stevenson

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Tom Stevenson : Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Every Wine on Earth, Really By Angie's Shandy This is a reference book. You would only read this cover to cover if you'd do the same with the dictionary. Stevenson opens with a brief explanation of how to assess wine before going into a very detailed examination of viticulturemdash;growing grapesmdash;and vinificationmdash;making wine. The bulk of the book is an exhaustive analysis of the world's wine producers wherein Stevenson introduces the country, its regions of production, the appellations within those regions, and notable producers. He uses an elaborate system of symbols to communicate when wines should be drunk, the grape varieties used in vinification, and quality. He even has a symbol that signifies "wines of exceptional value for money, whether they are inexpensive or not." A handy glossary of grape varieties with all their synonyms eliminates

confusion and a tasting chart of aromas from apples to sauerkraut explains the chemical reasons why we can detect them in wine. The Guide to Good Vintages' most recent year is 2003. Stevenson also dedicates a few pages to wine and food pairings with budget bottle choices. The book measures roughly 11 1/4 in (29 cm) x 8 3/4 in (22 cm) x 1 1/2 in (4 cm) and weighs about 4 lbs (1.8 kg). A great companion to this book is Michael Schuster's Essential Winetasting here: Essential Winetasting: The Complete Practical Winetasting Course. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good for France and cursory overviews of other wine regions By E. Shlimovich This book is great for France (by far the longest section), and provides acceptable introductory overviews of other regions, but is truly dreadful for Italy and Germany if you are looking for a bit more detail. The maps of those regions are also extremely difficult to decipher, because they are trying to cover too much (one half-page map is supposed to cover all of Northwest Italy, which includes at least 4 major wine regions). In addition, it's largely a book to guide investing in wine, not necessarily exploring wine for fun's sake. A good introductory tool, nonetheless, but not much beyond that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book depending By firesprings This is a good book depending on what you're looking for. It's also an older book now, considering how new areas are exploding into the market nowadays, but still maintains it's usefulness in overall knowledge. I admit, I don't sit down and read this like I probably should. I don't have a great knowledge of wines, but I have a fairly decent palate and know what I like and around how much I want to pay. This book helped me figure these things out. The way they mark the value for quality has helped me try new wines that most of the time I've ended up loving. That being said, sometimes this book isn't the easiest to use. Broken up into regions, you have to first know where you're looking for what you're looking for if that makes sense. Again, I should probably sit down and read this one of these days, but I usually just end up flipping through pages until something catches my eye. I think this has more to do with my personality because it's how I also shop for wine when I haven't used this book. Often I use this paired with What to Drink with What You Eat: The Definitive Guide to Pairing Food with Wine, Beer, Spirits, Coffee, Tea - Even Water - Based on Expert Advice from America's Best Sommeliers to get an idea of what I should be looking for once my menu is set.

Perfect for novices, wine enthusiasts, or experts, this book's easy-to-use style and practical advice make it an unrivaled visual reference. Updated and expanded with the latest information on all the wine-producing areas of the world.

"... an essential part of a good wine library." -- The Wall Street Journal "... this is anything but dull or pedantic and is written in a way both wine experts and novices can enjoy." -- Tampa Tribune About the Author Tom Stevenson has been writing about wine for nearly thirty years and is the author of more than 20 books. He's been nominated on three occasions as Wine Writer of the Year and received the coveted Wine Literary Award, America's lifetime achievement award for wine writing.