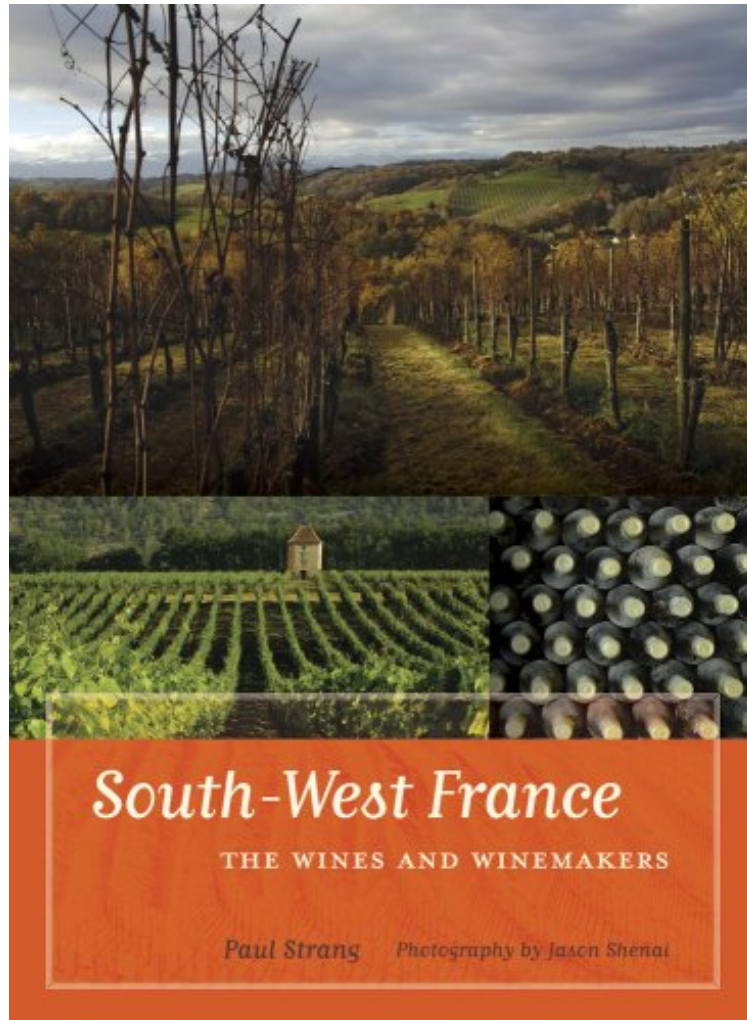


## South-West France: The Wines and Winemakers

*Paul Strang*

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**Paul Strang : South-West France: The Wines and Winemakers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised South-West France: The Wines and Winemakers:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Off the beaten path By ChambolleI believe I'm as well-versed in the niceties of French wine as any passionate amateur/one-time member of the wine trade, but I'll admit it, I had no idea the Cotes du Brulhois and Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh existed, much less who is making the best wine there and why -- until I decided to buy and start reading this book. Burgundy, Bordeaux, the Loire, the Rhone, Bandol, Champagne, Alsace, all of these have grabbed plenty of my attention, time and money over the course of decades, but Pacherenc? Saussignac? Paul Strang is to Southwest France what Livingstone-Learmonth is to the Rhone -- a man with a good palate and an encyclopedic, first hand knowledge of the land, the wines and the people. His book is an eye opener for a lover of French wines, like me, who has not even dipped his toes into this corner of the French wine universe. As

attention to detail and the quest for higher quality in the vineyard and the cellar comes to these out of the way corners of France, and as the paths in places like Bordeaux and Burgundy become increasingly well, if not over-trodden, Southwest France could certainly be a place to look for a new source of wines of character and sense of place that are for drinking, not "collector's items." Strang's book is the best place I know of to begin learning about the area and its wines. A really valuable source of info.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Guide to SW France Wines By Roger High This book describes the wine areas of this region, then details the major wineries / owners in each regions. I share the author's strong opinions regarding the use of new oak in the making of these wines, which are reflected in his lower marks given to a large number of high-end wines, where use of new oak may dominate. This is a detailed, excellent book on this lesser known part of France, but unfortunately my copy had a major problem, I think derived from the printing - the wineries in each area are numbered and the locations of the wineries are shown on a map of each area using the same numbers. Unfortunately the numbers in the text have been printed out by a large opaque square - no matter I wrote to the author and he immediately provided several sheets advising the correct numbers for each winery to match the maps. No doubt the next edition will rectify this matter and I would have no hesitation to rate the book with 5 stars.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great writer, grrreat book By Dan S. Higgins I've read extensively about the wines of California, Bordeaux, Italy, France, but it's great to see a book so well written on the unheralded areas of Marcillac, Gaillac, Cahors, Monbazillac, Jurancon, Madiran, just to name a few. There are actually about 40 sub-regions explored in Strang's book where you'll learn which varieties are grown depending on the region and whether the wine is made in an Old World style fermented in stainless steel, concrete, or used barrique, or perhaps in a New World style in new oak barrels. I thank Mr Strang for expressing his taste for balanced wines, low in alcohol, and not tasting predominantly of oak. He awards wines up to three stars but is in no way hung up on his tasting notes but more on the actual estate and the people growing the grapes. Bravo!

Between Bordeaux and the Spanish border, reaching east to the Massif Central and the river valleys of the Dordogne and Lot, and south to the foothills of the Pyrenees, lies a unique and little-known viticultural landscape. South-West France is a wine lover's paradise that cultivates an astonishing array of grape varieties, many that grow nowhere else, and produces a fascinating assortment of wines. In this book, Paul Strang covers the South-West with enthusiasm and keen expertise, providing a history of its wine industry, including a near collapse and unlikely rebirth, and introducing readers to a region that seems to defy globalization. The outstanding local wines—made by idiosyncratic growers motivated by a passion for their profession—range from inky Tannats to honeyed late-harvest Semillons. Intrepid readers are invited to rediscover this beautiful part of France, already well known for its cuisine, castles, and cave art, for its earthy and intriguing wines. Winner of the 2009 GOURMAND World Cookbook Awards "Best Wine Atlas/Tourism Book in the World"

“An invaluable guide to some of France’s most original wines.”