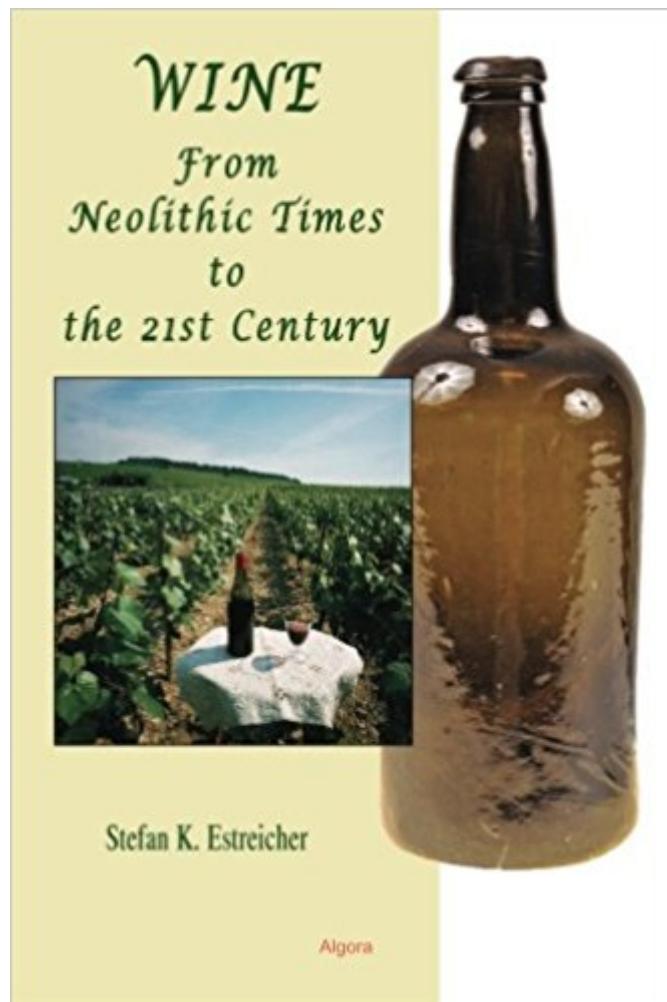


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# Wine: From Neolithic Times To The 21st Century



## Synopsis

The story of wine, one of the foundations of Western civilization, is the story of religion, medicine, science, war, discovery and dream. The essential historical background and the key developments in the history of wine through the ages are outlined in this compact, engaging, easy-to-read and well-illustrated text, with lists of top vintages. For thousands of years wine mixed with water was the safe drink. It was a key ingredient of medications. The antiseptic properties of the alcohol it contains saved lives. Wine was associated with many religious rituals, some of which survive today. The story of wine involves scientists like Hippocrates of Kos, Zaccharia Razi, Isaac Newton (albeit indirectly), Louis Pasteur, and many others. It also involves colorful people such as Gregory of Tours and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Vines made their way to the Americas with the Conquistadores. Then wines almost disappeared in the late 1800s as Phylloxera spread throughout the world. This scourge was followed by World War I, the Great Depression, Prohibition, and World War II. Today, winemaking has enjoyed a renaissance and many excellent and affordable wines are produced throughout the world. This book provides a quick introduction to wine through history, geography, chemistry, and taste. Useful for all who enjoy wine, the book is also designed to be a possible foundation for a one-semester course on the history of wine. Many books discuss today's wines without much historical information. Others overwhelm potential readers by their sheer size. This book provides a quick introduction to wine through history, geography, chemistry, and taste, and is useful for all who enjoy wine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Accessible and compact, yet thorough and informative, this history of wine use and wine making will find readers among students of the industry as well as curious wine drinkers of both novice and experienced vintage. Estreicher, a physics professor at Texas Tech U., shares his enjoyment of the subject in this well-written history, clearly a labor of love and long-term study. Some illustrations support the text small, b&w digital reproductions that do the job without pretension.

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Stefan K. Estreicher is Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Physics at Texas Tech University. His fascination with wine, and the history of wine, dates back to a memorable encounter with a bottle of Richebourg 1949 while working toward his doctorate from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He has been invited to lecture on the topic at scientific meetings in San Francisco and Santa Clara as well as at Texas Tech and Oxford University (UK). Estreicher has published over 150 scientific papers as well as several articles on various aspects of the history of wine.

This book jumps around, foreword and back through history, without any order or reason. It's as if the author dropped the unbound manuscript and then published it without putting the pages in order again. It's too bad, because this could have been a wonderful book on the subject.

Lots of good information but laid out in a very strange way.

Great book if you ever wondered where it all began.

I needed this book for class, and everything was ok with my order. The book is just poorly written and jumps all over the place.

This is one fabulous book.

Despite a seemingly mundane title, I found this book to be quite a pleasurable, fun and easy read, not only for the mass of information Estreicher provides in 200 pages, but because of the variety of information provided. This book takes you on an adventure spanning 7,000 years in which you not only learn about the history of wine, but also fun little bits of information that are entertaining. It also offers a greater oversight about history and how the wonderful invention that is wine has affected us

all. You can tell this is a true passion for the author; it is fun for him so he makes it fun for you, the reader, by encouraging a curiosity that keeps you turning the pages.

The author takes us on a vivid tour of the history of wine from the beginning to now. Clearly a wine-lover himself, his playful yet expert voice is an easy one to follow. The book is as equally well-illustrated, and belongs among the collection of any connoisseur of fermented beverage.

There's a lot of information in a compact amount of pages. Most informative books aren't easy to read but this one keeps your attention. I never expected to have so much fun while learning about wines. The footnotes were entertaining and finding James Bond in a wine book was a nice surprise. This book really is great.

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