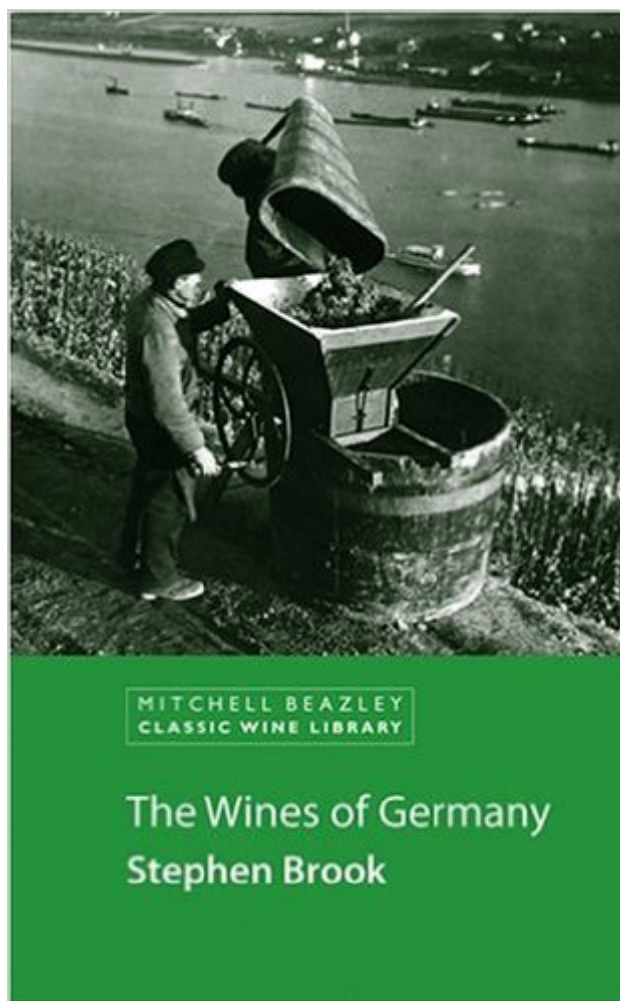


The book was found

The Wines Of Germany (Classic Wine Library)



Synopsis

Records of German wine shipments date back to the early 13th century "and yet, despite the fact that Germany's wines are rich in history and renown, a large proportion of the wine-drinking public still looks down upon them. Multi-award-winning author Stephen Brook addresses the strange and complex question of why this has been so, focusing in on some controversial German wine laws and issues such as vineyard classification. In addition, he guides wine lovers to the top vintages and producers and the best vineyard sites, and discusses a wide range of grape varieties and lesser-known wine styles. "

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, you should know that I'm far from a wine expert. I'm working hard to get past the "I just know I like this one" stage, reaching towards the state of "somewhat knowledgeable." Books like this are helping me achieve that goal, however. The Wines of Germany is essentially organized in two parts. The first five chapters give an overview of the unique issues of the German wine landscape, covering the wine law of Germany; vineyard classification; German wine styles; going to market; and the German grape varieties. The rest of the book is devoted to wines from each region, covering both the obvious regions (such as Rheingau and Nahe) and the regions that other dismiss in a few paragraphs (such as Sachsen and Saale-Unstrut). In each of those chapters, he begins with an overview that discusses everything from the hectares devoted to winemaking ("The Rheingau has

about 3,200 ha of vines, grown by 1,500 owners") to the geology to wine-growing history to the current market conditions. For each region, Brook discusses both individual vineyards and the producers. In other words, you can look up a wine by the village it comes from, and by a particular winery. (Some wineries, after all, have vines in more than one area.) Oh -- and there are excellent maps. That sounds EVER so dry, but gosh -- it really isn't. What Brook does amazingly well is both explain what the issue is (such as the 1971 wine law), what it means to the winemakers and thus to the consumer, and how it'll affect the wines you buy (and their cost). Nor does he shy away from the political issues. I finally understand why the German wine labels are so confusing, for example, and why it took an entire chapter to make it understandable!

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