



SALUT: Gifts that wine lovers will actually use

By ANTHONY GISMONDI

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There's no shortage of unnecessary wine gifts out there — the kind that end up in a drawer or on a shelf after a single use, never to be taken out again. Sticking to the basics like glasses, decanters, books and special bottles is your best bet. Today, we look at some of the basic requirements for any aspiring wine drinker.

Wine books can be a thoughtful gift for the wine drinker and I'm a big fan of gifting a book plus a wine that relates to the book. One of the best new books to come out this year is on Argentina, a country that really needed one to tell travelers where to go, what to taste and where to stay.

Exploring Wine Regions: Argentina by Michael C. Higgins (\$35) is half guide book, half coffee table book, with information gathered through extensive time spent with top industry insiders. The book focuses on Mendoza, Salta and Patagonia and everything is vetted by the author. Books are available online and major book stores and wine shops across the country.

The wine match is Zuccardi Tito Altamira, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina (\$42.99), an amazing blend of 66% Malbec, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Ancellotta and 10% Caladoc (and Zuccardi wines are reviewed in the book).

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