



Official Review: Exploring Wine Regions – Bordeaux France

4 out of 4 stars

By Shrab Astee, Reviewer, Online Book Club

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“Life is too short to drink bad wine.”

Says Michael C. Higgins, enology expert and photojournalist. His book, *Exploring Wine Regions - Bordeaux France*, recounts the experiences he gathered during his trips there. In this journal, he reviews wine from numerous wineries, gourmet dishes from several restaurants, and lodging facilities in castles and luxurious hotels. Vivid photographs of traditional wine cellars, delectable cuisine, historical landmarks, and scenic landscapes adorn the text. Also, this book serves the purpose of a travel guide with information on sightseeing and seasonal events.

The book was thoroughly researched and full of valuable details. Higgins adopted a systematic approach, specifying the particular route he would be taking while exploring. He incorporated several maps throughout the book, painstakingly pointing out the landmarks in them. The well-organized structure and the index at the end made it easy to navigate for the readers. The book was complete with contact details of hotels, links to extra chapters, and an invitation to the trips his team organizes for wine-enthusiasts.

I loved the assertive tone of the journal. It was evident that Higgins wrote the book based solely on his personal experiences. He directly addressed his readers and prompted them to try out this restaurant or taste that wine, guaranteeing that they would benefit from his advice. Not being a wine-enthusiast myself, I had to take many of his comments at face value. Yet, not once did I doubt his expertise. A few wine-tasting facilities even showcased his book, thus corroborating his vast knowledge of enology.

The contents never ceased to amaze me. From the history and techniques of wine-making to the culinary delights available in Bordeaux, Higgins covered every single aspect. The chapters on the evolution of the wine industry and the classification of different blends enriched my knowledge. The various anecdotes he included added to the allure of the book. The journal was a wholesome package that encompassed food, drinks, and travel. The mind-blowing photographs captured by Higgins provided glimpses of a glorious world, complementing the reading experience.

From a technical standpoint, I noticed very few errors that did not disrupt my reading. I have nothing negative to say about the book. Consequently, I rate this a well-deserved **4 out of 4 stars**. I wholeheartedly recommend this book not only to the connoisseurs of wine but also to any reader who believes gastronomy is an art to cultivate. Also, those who love reading travelogues would appreciate this journal.

Link to review: forums.onlinebookclub.org/shelves/book.php?id=469511