



## the wine chef

### Pages & Pours:

## Book-and-Wine Pairings for the Holidays

“There’s no friend as loyal as a book,” Hemingway once wrote. I’d argue a great glass of wine comes pretty close.

Put the two together, and you’ve got one of life’s simplest luxuries: a chance to sit still and let your mind wander somewhere wonderful. Whether you’re buying for a curious reader, an adventurous wine lover, or someone who’s both, these pairings make holiday gifting easy.

### ***Exploring Wine Regions - México: Discovering México's Quality Wines and Phenomenal Cuisine***

**Author: Michael C. Higgins, PhD.** List Price: \$34.95

For anyone who loves discovering emerging wine destinations, this book, the fourth in an **award-winning series**, is a terrific introduction to Mexico’s most exciting wine regions. Higgins focuses on three areas: **Valle de Guadalupe, Guanajuato, and Querétaro**, offering a detailed, visually engaging guide to their wineries, food culture, and landscapes.

It’s especially valuable for **travelers**. Higgins highlights not only **tasting rooms** and **vineyards**, but also **gastronomy** (chefs, restaurants, culinary traditions), **lodging** (luxury resorts, B&Bs, villas), and **cultural stops**.

In Valle de Guadalupe, for example, he writes about **Casa Frida**, a colorful boutique property inspired by Frida Kahlo, one of Mexico’s most important artists. And in Guanajuato, he takes readers to the **Santuario de Atotonilco**, the breathtaking World Heritage church often called the “Sistine Chapel of Mexico.”

Higgins portrays a **centuries-old wine culture** that’s vibrant, diverse, and ready for exploration. He ties history, travel, and winemaking together in a way that makes Mexico feel both familiar and entirely new.

Purchase the book at [exploringwineregions.com](http://exploringwineregions.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).

## Pair with Monte Xanic Chenin Blanc 2022

**Monte Xanic Chenin Blanc 2022** is bright and lifted, layering crisp pear, white flowers with a touch of citrus zest, all anchored by the vibrant acidity that has become Monte Xanic's calling card. (\$20)

Founded in 1987, Monte Xanic is one of Valle de Guadalupe's **pioneering** modern wineries. In his book, Higgins says its hillside tasting area has the "Best View for Wine Tasting," thanks to its sweeping overlook of the valley and the serene lake below. Here, guests can settle in for everything from classic tastings to a popular **Wine & Chocolate** pairing.

