

Madeira

The islands and their wines

Richard Mayson

New book on the wines of Madeira is essential reading for holidaymakers and wine lovers

They say that a fine wine gets better with age and of no wine is this more true than it is for Madeira. Not only does Madeira require cask-ageing in order to acquire its unique 'maderised' taste but, unlike most other wines, it retains that taste for many years, even several centuries. For heat and air, the sworn enemies of most wines and winemakers, conspire to turn Madeira into one of the most enthralling of the world's wines as well as the most resilient. Madeira wines from the nineteenth and even the eighteenth centuries still retain an ethereal, youthful gloss. Once the cork is removed, the wine comes to no harm, even if the bottle is left open and on ullage for months on end. If ever there was a wine to take to a desert island this is it.

Award-winning wine writer Richard Mayson, the author of *Madeira: the islands and their wines* (published on 22 May 2015), has been exploring the world of Madeira for twenty-five years and describes it as 'one of the world's most mystical and miraculous wines'. Madeira is indeed a much-loved fortified wine with a history that is as deeply embedded in American as European culture (for instance, did you know that it was George Washington's favourite drink and used to toast the American Independence in 1776?) and it's currently making a comeback. In this timeless book on an ageless wine Mayson takes the reader on a thrilling journey through the rich and turbulent history of the islands of Madeira, from its discovery by the Moors in the fourteenth century to the present day and its draw as a popular tourist destination.

Mayson describes the physical character of the archipelago, the state of the vines and vineyards and the way in which the

wines are made. A guide to current producers follows along with a detailed appraisal of their range of wines. There is also a chapter for collectors of older wines, many from shippers that no longer exist but whose names live on in bottles of wine that are still found in cellars all over the world. Wines dating as far back as the eighteenth century are featured in the book, along with quality appraisals. There is a short section on the language of tasting Madeira as well as information on buying, keeping and serving the wines. The book closes with a travel guide for anyone visiting the islands.

This is the latest book in Infinite Ideas' highly popular Classic Wine Library and is an essential addition to the shelf of any wine lover.

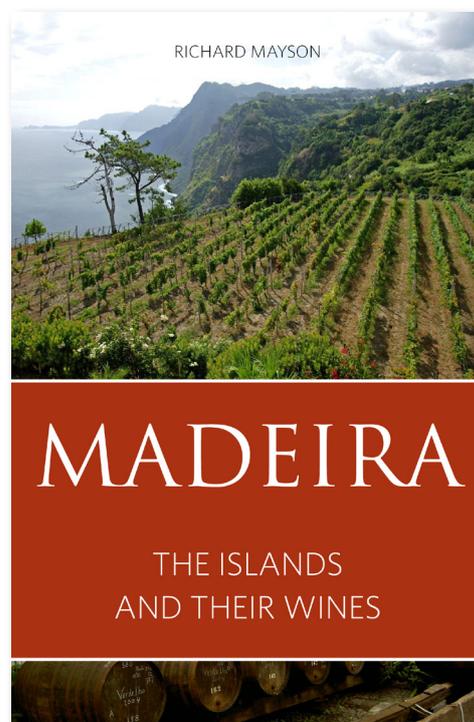
About the author

Richard Mayson is an expert on port and Portuguese wines and series editor of Infinite Ideas' Classic Wine Library. He is the author of *Port and the Douro* and *Richard Mayson's guide to vintage port* as well as *Portugal's Wine and Winemakers* and *The Wines and Vineyards of Portugal*. He is a contributor to the *Oxford Companion to Wine*, the *Larousse Encyclopaedia of Wine* and to *Decanter*. In 2014 Richard won the Louis Roederer award for International Wine Feature Writer of the Year.

Review copies/contact

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Madeira: The islands and their wines is published by Infinite Ideas on 5 June 2015.
ISBN: 9781908984302, hb, rrp £35.00, 234 x 156mm, 272pp. Also available as an eBook.

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