Welcome back to The Classic Wine Library

Since we published our last catalogue, The Library has gained a member, with Sarah Jane Evans MW and Richard Mayson now joined by James Tidwell MS. James is an American master sommelier who founded the TEXSOM conference, and one of his aims is to expand the series to include books on United States wine regions. Appropriately the first US title is The wines of Southwest U.S.A., by Jessica Dupuy, which reveals the surprisingly long wine history and developed wine industries of Texas and its neighbours; this will be followed by Elaine Chukan Brown's The wines of California, an essential book on one of the world's largest producers. We will be announcing more US titles shortly but in the meantime fans of New World wines can read up on two other great wine-producing countries in The wines of South Africa by Jim Clarke and The wines of Australia by Mark Davidson.

But don't worry, we haven't left Europe behind. At the end of 2019 we published The wines of Georgia by Lisa Granik MW, a must for anybody interested in exploring one of the oldest wine cultures in existence. This summer readers can look forward to Richard Mayson's The wines of Portugal (and he's also working on updates for Madeira: The islands and their wines). This is followed in the second half of the year by a French trio: Wines of the Rhône by Matt Walls, The wines of Roussillon by resident Francophile Rosemary George MW and The wines of south-west France by Rod Phillips. Read on for more books to get excited about.

The wines of Georgia
Lisa Granik MW

Although the Republic of Georgia can claim over 8,000 years of winemaking history, the current wine industry is very young. Georgia has for the last 25 years been resurrecting its unique winemaking tradition and rediscovering the distinctiveness of its native varieties. Yet the wines are still largely unknown in the West. Following a quick romp through the complex geology and history of the country Granik moves on to consider not only winemaking methods and viticulture but also the centrality of wine to Georgian culture. The most commonly planted grapes are profiled, as well as the many 'lost' varieties being revived. The second half of the book explores each of the major regions. Granik provides details on the most significant producers, along with tips on sites of interest and places to eat and stay, for those visiting the country.

The wines of South Africa
Jim Clarke

South Africa is the eighth-largest wine producer in the world and one of the oldest in the New World. In the past decade a new generation of winemakers has been breathing fresh life into centuries-old estates and new, boutique brands alike. After outlining the history of South African wine, Clarke goes on to explore the industry today, pinpointing the geological, geographical and climatic conditions that influence South African wine. Major grape varieties and wine styles are detailed and the important markets explained. Challenges facing the industry, including profitability, environmental concerns and the legacy of apartheid in the Western Cape are analysed. The central part of the book familiarizes readers with the appellation system and major growing areas of South Africa and the most important producers operating in each one.


The wines of Southwest U.S.A.
A guide to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado
Jessica Dupuy

Few would associate America’s frontier states with wine. And yet it is here that the country’s first *Vitis vinifera* vines are said to have been planted. In 1598, Franciscan monks planted vines in New Mexico; vines were also planted in west Texas during the mid-seventeenth century. But it wasn’t until the 1970s that the modern wine industry was born. Although Texas has lead the pack, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado have also evolved, with compelling stories and promising wine industries of their own. This book takes each state in turn, addressing eight key topics: history, regions, climate, challenges, grape varieties, leading producers, leading grape growers and the future. Interesting notes on history, culture and specific wine personalities pepper the text.

The wines of Portugal
Richard Mayson

A revolution has been taking place in the vineyards and wineries of Portugal during the last twenty years, bringing hundreds of new wines, many from indigenous grapes, onto the international market. Previously thought of as a producer of mainly red wine, Portugal is now proving it is capable of making world-class white wines too. In order to examine the terroirs that make this small but varied country so unique, The wines of Portugal divides the country into four areas — Atlantic, mountains, plains and islands — providing detailed descriptions of the demarcated wine regions, the growers and the wines they produce. From crisp Vinhos Verdes in the Atlantic north-west through the Douro, Dão and Lisbon to the big, bold reds of the Alentejo and newcomers from the Algarve, this book is an up-to-date appraisal of Portugal’s vineyards and wine producers.


Wines of the Rhône
Matt Walls

One of the greatest, largest and most ancient wine regions of France, the Rhône remains remarkably accessible and true to itself despite growing in size and reputation in recent years. This new exploration of the wines of the region covers the history, geography, vine growing and winemaking methods of all the appellations of the Rhône, from timeless Côte-Rôtie and Châteauneuf-du-Pape to insider secrets such as the forgotten Brézéme and Seyssuel. Featuring interviews with some of the most respected winemakers and personalities of the region, Wines of the Rhône also includes fascinating insights and anecdotes from experts based further afield. Vintage guides give a brief description of the quality and typical wine styles in both red and white from 1978 to the present day, detailing main vintage characteristics and any over- or underperforming appellations.

The wines of south-west France

Rod Phillips

Wine production in south-west France goes back a long way. The region includes some of the first districts in France to be planted with vines by the Romans, more than two thousand years ago. It is also the earliest-known location of scores of grape varieties, some of them precursors of international varieties such as Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Although south-west France is the country’s fourth largest wine producer, very few wine consumers are familiar with more than two or three of its appellations. Cahors and Madiran are well-known but we don’t hear much about less fashionable appellations such as Rosette and Béarn. The wines of south-west France covers the region in an accessible way, from the botrytized sweet whites of Monbazillac to the teeth-staining reds of Cahors, and the distinctive dry whites of Jurançon to the tannic reds of Madiran.


The wines of Roussillon

Rosemary George MW

Roussillon, the sunniest (and driest) region of France, currently produces around 22 million gallons of wine a year and is the ninth largest producer of wine in France. With its unique patchwork of micro-terroirs Roussillon offers a diverse range of wines, including dry, still wines and fortified sweet wines. George considers the rich history of the region, particularly the Spanish effect, and explains the predominance of vin doux naturel before moving on to the viticulture, winemaking and grape varieties, and the extraordinary variety of terroirs and soils of the region. The main body of The wines of Roussillon is the series of chapters by appellation, covering the key wine growers, with a balance of well-established and newcomers, as well as cooperatives.

The wines of Australia
Mark Davidson

Davidson’s book explores the essence of Australian wine, examining the factors that have shaped and continue to evolve the wines. The Australian character combines a healthy respect for tradition with a ‘have a go’ mentality. This attitude, blended with the uniqueness of the ancient geology, complex soils, quality of light and flora and fauna, has had a dramatic influence on how the very best wines of Australia taste and feel. Davidson begins with an overview, including the history of the vine in Australia, its geology, topography, soils and climate, the major (and emerging) grape varieties, the history and evolution of viticulture and winemaking in Australia, and labelling laws. A summary of the wine zones in each state is followed by a detailed look at the major regions, including the people who are shaping the future of Australian wine.

April 2021, 320 pages, colour plates, 978–1–913022–05–1

The white wines of Bordeaux
Mary Gorman-McAdams MW

This insightful book examines in detail the lesser-known wines of Bordeaux – the dry whites, the rosés (including Clairet), the sweet wines (beyond just the famed Sauternes) and the relative newcomer crémant, sparkling wine, which now represents 1 per cent of all Bordeaux wine. Beginning with an introduction to the location and its climate, the book moves on to outline the history of white winemaking in Bordeaux and detail the varieties grown. Each appellation is explained in terms of its terroir, blends, styles and significant wines. The stories of key producers, and their vine-growing and winemaking approaches, are explored for each appellation. The challenges and catalysts for change, from shifts in wine-buyer demographics to environmental issues, are analysed. The book concludes with a chapter on vintage white Bordeaux.

Fizz!
Champagne and sparkling wines of the world
Anthony Rose

Sparkling wine consumption is on the increase. Even as recently as 20 years ago, most sparkling wines were either attempts at copying The Real Thing or simply ways of getting bubbles in a glass as cheaply as possible. This has all changed. In *Fizz!* Anthony Rose brings us the stories behind the wines, exploring the changes in vineyard and cellar that have led to the blossoming of this wine sector and explaining why it’s worth paying more for the better wines. *Fizz!* sets out the huge diversity of wine styles now on offer, from champagne itself to pretenders to the throne such as Great Britain’s sparkling wines, to those produced in emerging countries like China, Japan and India, and presents profiles of the producers making a difference to fizz across the globe.


The wines of California
Elaine Chukan Brown

In this concise, yet complete, smartly delivered and cohesive book Elaine Chukan Brown trains her expert eye on the fourth-largest wine producer in the world. She begins by presenting the key ideas that help make sense of California’s wine as a whole, including a brief history of Californian wine, how the topography delivers California’s overarching climatic and soil conditions, and the basics of vineyard and winery factors relevant to the state. Growing conditions, varietal trends and historical development are explored for each region, along with an explanation of its AVAs, that is, its appellations. Key influential producers in each region are detailed, while sidebars help the reader navigate each chapter. The book concludes by analysing the key themes that have emerged in the industry, in order to predict what the future may hold for Californian wine.

The wines of central and southern Spain
From Catalunyana to Cadiz
Sarah Jane Evans MW

The companion volume to Evans’ *The wines of northern Spain* explores the great variety of wines produced across the rest of Spain. Beginning in the east with Catalunya, the book journeys south down the Mediterranean coast to the Levante. The heart of Spain, including Madrid and La Mancha is explored before we reach Andalucia in the south and voyage on to the Balearic and Canary Islands. The regions covered could not be more different, separated by language, customs and history as well as by gastronomy and wines. After a chapter on key grape varieties Evans explores each region in turn, relating its history, exploring current trends in winemaking and viticulture and profiling the key producers. There is also a chapter on Spain’s sparkling wines.


The wines of Piemonte
David Way

Piemonte is home to the indisputably great wines of Barolo and Barbaresco, made from the Nebbiolo grape variety. It also has a fascinating range of red, white and sparkling wines, nearly all made from local or long-domiciled varieties. *The wines of Piemonte* evaluates the current state of the Nebbiolo wines and gives a substantial introduction to Piemonte’s other vinous treasures, often overlooked by wine lovers. Following chapters on the history, geography, soils and climate of the region, Way turns to the main theme of his book: the relationship between each place and a single grape variety, and how this defines the region’s wines. Exploration of this crucial relationship is accompanied by profiles of the producers who grow and interpret the grapes in their location to create their wines, and assessment of the challenges affecting the industry.

Our bestselling backlist …

*Amarone and the fine wines of Verona*, Michael Garner (284 pages, 978–1–908984–69–2)
Soave and Valpolicella – home to Amarone – now produce some of the world’s most drinkable quality wines. In *Amarone and the fine wines of Verona*, Italian wine specialist Michael Garner traces a shift towards new levels of quality driven by a generation of producers inspired by the area’s outstanding potential for producing fine wine.

*Biodynamic wine*, Monty Waldin (238 pages, 978–1–908984–70–8)
Monty Waldin’s *Biodynamic wine* is a comprehensive guide to the most argued-about green winemaking phenomenon of recent years. It is both an ideal how-to manual for growers and a fascinating guide for wine professionals and wine lovers.

*Cognac* (3rd edition), Nicholas Faith (224 pages, 978–1–908984–65–4)
An authoritative account of how the much-loved spirit is produced and matured, an engaging review of the history and personalities involved, and a comprehensive directory of cognac producers and their products.

*Côte d’Or*, Raymond Blake (292 pages, 978–1–908984–93–7)
The Côte d’Or holds some of the world’s most expensive vineyard real estate, home to great names of French wine. Here, Blake transports the reader to the heart of Burgundy to tell the whole story of this influential region, painting a complete picture of the history, the culture, the people, the place, the geography and the climate.

A unique guide to a unique wine. Mayson considers the physical character of the archipelago, the vineyards and the way in which the wines are made. A guide to the current producers follows, along with a detailed appraisal of their wines. There is also a chapter for collectors of older wines.

This ever-popular book has been updated to include vintages up to 2016 and incorporate recent changes in the industry. An entire chapter is dedicated to vintage port, with the producers and shippers included in a comprehensive directory. There is a chapter dedicated to Douro wines and an insightful travel guide.
Rosé, Elizabeth Gabay MW (334 pages, 978–1–908984–13–5)
Rosé wines are often thought of as fresh and undemanding but while for many that is part of their appeal, here Master of Wine Elizabeth Gabay reveals the other side of rosé, discovering wines (some unavailable beyond the winery steps) that are every bit as complex and intriguing as their red and white cellarmates.

Featuring a history of sake and discussion of the parts played by climate and geography, water, rice, yeast and koji (fermentation mould) in creating sake's flavours. The most important breweries across the main sake-producing regions are profiled. The book also includes a chapter on Japan's burgeoning grape-wine industry.

This sixth edition, fully updated in 2016, explores the links between Jerez’s history and culture, and the development of the sherry trade. It provides extensive details of shippers, from the traditional family firms to the new boutique bodegas, along with thorough appendices for those who wish to delve into the fine details.

Spirits Distilled, Mark Ridgwell (272 pages, 978–1–908984–67–8, £19.99)
This third edition is a comprehensive guide to all of the major spirits categories. Mark Ridgwell explains the principles of distillation and how to taste spirits as well as the history and legends behind both popular and less fashionable spirits. The new edition also features cocktails from expert mixologist Michael Butt.

The story of champagne, Nicholas Faith (280 pages, 978–1–908984–68–5)
The new edition of Nicholas Faith’s landmark book is written from the winemakers’ point of view. This masterpiece of storytelling and analysis that has for decades excited readers about the different types of champagne and the landscape, geology and climate that inspire them also contains an up-to-date evaluation of wines.

The wines of Austria (2nd edition), Stephen Brook (324 pages, 978–1–913022–07–5)
Today, the landlocked country of Austria produces a great variety of quality wines. Brook provides a detailed account of the climate, terroir and winemaking in each of the 16 major wine regions. The producers selected in each have been thoroughly updated for this edition, with many wines tasted up to the 2018 vintage.
The first book devoted to the region's most important wine-producing countries, in all of which wine is a major employer and driver of economic progress. For each country, Gilby supplies details on key wine styles and important grape varieties, speaking to those involved in the industry and highlighting wineries to look out for.

The wines of Canada, Rod Phillips (254 pages, 978–1–908984–98–2)
Discusses key producers of the main wine-producing regions (British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia), and the styles of wine most characteristic of their production, as well as analysing vintage variation and noteworthy viticultural and winemaking techniques.

Beginning with the history of the region, and detailing Chablis' more recent revival, George goes on to consider the vineyards, the crus, viticulture and vinification of Chablis. The bulk of the book is an invaluable who's who of Chablis winemakers and estates. George also profiles the most important wine growers of the Grand Auxerrois.

The wines of Faugères, Rosemary George (228 pages, 978–1–908984–71–5)
A comprehensive guide to the wines of a small, distinct region of Languedoc, this covers the history, geography and climate of the region, as well as its grape varieties and viticulture, before profiling the individual producers and their wines, and contains an indispensable assessment of vintages going back to 1982.

Germany today is a vibrant, creative and progressive wine country. Here, German wine expert Anne Krebiehl presents the new Germany to the world, getting rid of a few misconceptions and prejudices in the process. Each region is explored in detail, including profiles of both well-known estates and some interesting newcomers.

Stephen Skelton MW, the leading authority on these wines, undertakes a comprehensive survey of the history of the country's wines from King Alfred in the fifth century to the present day, as well as an examination of the current state of the wine industry and its future prospects. A substantial part of this book is the 21 detailed biographies of the most important, exciting and innovative producers and the wines they create.
The wines of Greece, Konstantinos Lazarakis MW (424 pages, 978–1–908984–72–2)
Greece produces a host of different wines – sweet wines from Samos, Malvasia from the Peloponnese and new, surprising wines from innovators throughout the country. The bulk of the book is dedicated to the work of these winemakers, as Lazarakis focuses on some of the most inventive producers and interesting wines available.

Details the huge variety of wines created in the two islands that make up this prolific wine producer, covering the most prominent and interesting producers of the major wine growing regions, from the warmer North Island, with its riper and richer wine styles, to the cooler South, where wines are crisper and more pungent.

The wines of northern Spain, Sarah Jane Evans MW (344 pages, 978–1–908984–96–8)
Although rightly famed for the wines of Rioja, the north of Spain has even more to offer the wine adventurer, as across the country a new generation is joining established producers in a remarkable blossoming of fine wines. The wines of northern Spain is essential reading for all interested in the ongoing revival of Spanish wines.

Wine, Rod Phillips (266 pages, 978–1–908984–89–0, £25)
Wine is a drink with a long history that has had a hand in shaping society and culture across the globe. Taking a thematic approach to his subject, wine historian Rod Phillips discovers the profound effect this seemingly simple grape-based drink has had on our landscapes, politics, language and social interactions.

Wines of the Languedoc, Rosemary George MW (374 pages, 978–1–908984–86–9)
In recent decades the Languedoc’s relatively affordable land and exciting creative possibilities have attracted winemakers from around the world and it has finally found its place among the great wine regions. Wines of the Languedoc profiles a selection of those producers who have made and continue to boost the region’s reputation.