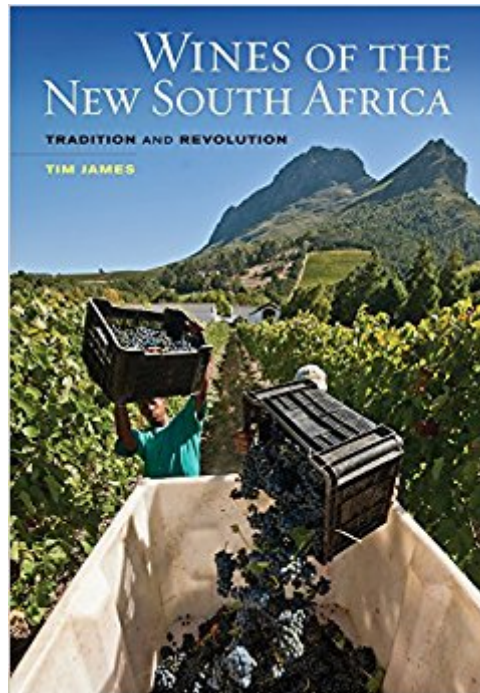




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Wines Of The New South Africa: Tradition And Revolution



Synopsis

Sought after by European aristocrats and a favorite of Napoleon Bonaparte, the sweet wines of Constantia in the Cape Colony were considered to be among the world's best during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During the first democratic elections in 1994, South Africa began to re-emerge onto the international wine scene. Tim James, an expert on South African wines, takes the reader on an information-packed tour of the region, showing us how and why the unique combination of terroir and climate, together with dramatic improvements in winemaking techniques, result in wines that are once again winning accolades. James describes important grape varieties and wine styles; from delicate sparkling, to rich fortified, and everything in between; including the varietal blends that produce some of the finest Cape wines. Anchoring his narrative in a rich historical context, James discusses all the major wine regions, from Cederberg to Walker Bay, complete with profiles of more than 150 of the country's finest producers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A hopeful and interesting read." (Fred Tasker Sacramento Bee 2013-08-14)"South African wine has needed a book like 'Wines of the New South Africa' for some time. . . . [James] brings a fresh perspective and a critical eye to a wine region about which he clearly cares deeply. The result is that 'Wines of the New South Africa' is as complete a reference on the South African wine scene as you're likely to find, and those with an interest in learning more about South African wine will be able to spend many hours with the book." (Joe Roberts, 1WineDude.com wine.answers.com

2013-09-01)"James writes passionately and intelligently about the wines of his homeland. . . . Wine lovers of every stripe should find 'New South Africa' interesting reading. . . . An informative reference." (Gerald Boyd Wine Review Online 2013-09-04)"A knowledgeable discussion of South African wine for the serious connoisseur." (Chicago Tribune 2013-09-15)"We have a profound appreciation for James's contribution in this detailed, comprehensive account of South African wine. Anyone planning a trip to South Africa or simply wanting to know a lot more about its wine industry is strongly encouraged to read this book." (International Wine Review Blog 2013-09-29) "It was once said that Wagner's music is better than it sounds. The same is true of James's Wines of the New South Africa." (Michael Fridjhon Business Day)"This is an important book, penned with knowledge and insight at an important point in the development of the South African wine industry." (The World of Fine Wine 2013-10-01)"[An] honest, clearly written and intense study of what has happened and is happening in the Cape. . . . One of the best reads of the year." (JancisRobinson.com 2013-12-24)"With academic precision and the enthusiasm of a true wine lover, James discusses the science, culture, and history of South Africa's most celebrated grape varieties and wine styles. Readers will come away with a clear understanding of the country's wine terroir and climate, as well as a new appreciation for South Africa's burgeoning wine industry." (Santafé © 2013-12-01)

Tim James combines the necessary cool eye and warm heart as successfully as any wine writer, making him the ideal guide to the new South Africa. Critical, knowledgeable, and passionate, erudite, eloquent, and lucid, he finds the gold at both ends of the rainbow, explaining the past and illuminating the present with a light but very sure touch. This is the book on South Africa for which wine lovers have been waiting. --Neil Beckett, editor of The World of Fine Wine"Tim James knows the Cape wine scene as well as anyone and far better than most local journalists. He brings an academic's rigour to his research, but he's a hedonist, too, reveling in the best wines. South Africa is lucky to have such a well informed advocate."--Tim Atkin MW

Great resource on wines from South Africa with good information on its origins. Historical information is provided as well as details on the latest developments.

Very informative and a great way to learn about South African wines and producers.

Great Book!

A very concise book on South Africa. It goes into a lot of details about regions/ varietals and producers. I would buy it again

South African wines are not necessarily at the forefront of many wine buffs' minds when pressed, yet they may be missing out on something with a tremendous heritage that became overshadowed during the country's past apartheid times. The term "New South African Wine" refers to the time after 1994 when democratic elections were epoch-changing in the country and freed from international restrictions the country's wine producers needed to help re-educate the wine world about a wine that had often been forgotten. Despite its past glories and heritage there was a bit of an uphill battle that still exists today. Even now, nearly 20 years on, South African wines can be a bit of a "best kept secret" for many, and the author of this book manages to convey a tremendous amount of information in an engaging, knowledgeable manner. Despite the book's clearly pro-academic leanings and lashings of notes and an extensive bibliography, this remains an accessible book for the enthusiastic "amateur" wine drinker as well as the researcher or industry insider. Despite looking forward, instead of backwards, the author still provides a great historical record too, going right back to the start of the country's wine industry from 1652. Such historical information helps establish the industry's heritage, pedigree and sets the scene for its more recent developments. This book is big on details. After a look at the various grape varieties and styles it is time to start focussing, with chapters dealing with the different wine-making regions individually. It feels as if you are getting a great mixture of wine guide, geographical primer and even a bit of a history lesson all rolled into one, and that is no bad thing either. A little bit of something for everyone if you will. This review book was based on a pre-publication draft so it was not possible to comment on its physical design and layout but as an information source this book certainly had it all. The information is allowed to speak for itself without it being hectoring or overtly political and for such a potentially sensitive subject area that is an appreciated omission. Reference, of course, is given to the changed political landscape in the country in context, but it thankfully leaves the deep political analysis to other books. The only slight concern is the price point that might, even allowing for the inevitable online discounts from certain vendors, price it outside of the reach of the impulsive consumer. The book's quality and breadth of information makes it a valuable resource but something of this calibre is deserving of a wide audience. Should you be serious about wine, you should be serious about considering this book as a possible fount of knowledge.

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