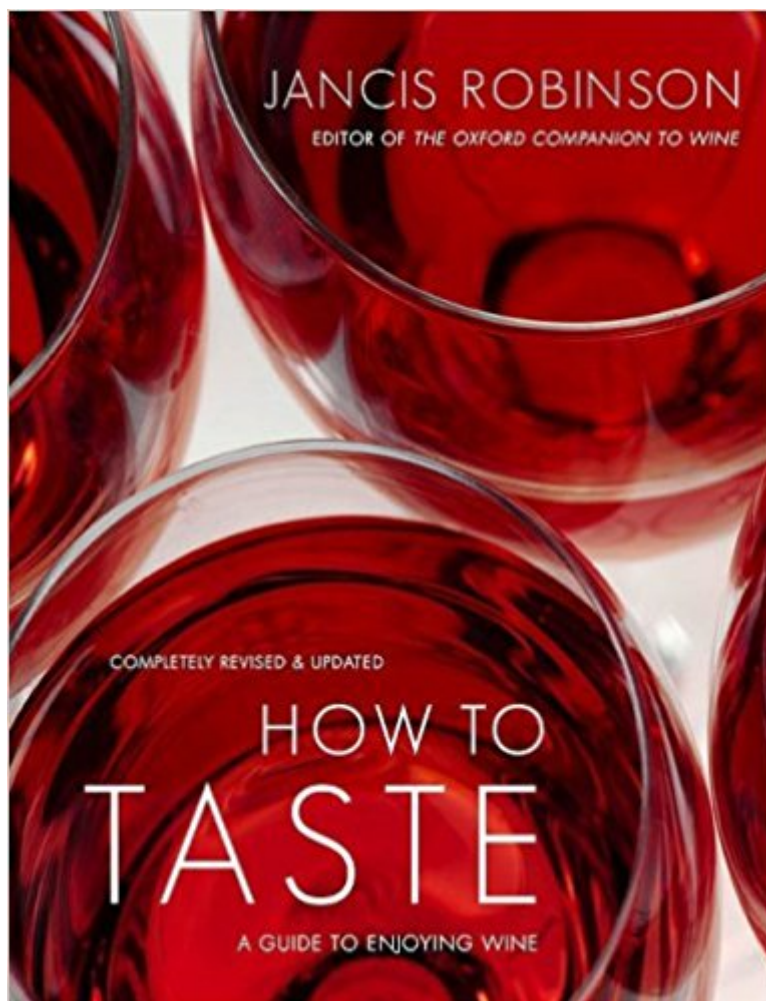


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# How To Taste: A Guide To Enjoying Wine



## Synopsis

Hailed by Jerry Shriver in USA Today as "the woman who makes the wine world gulp when she speaks," Jancis Robinson created in *How to Taste* a classic for connoisseurs of all levels and the first introduction of its kind to focus on practical tasting exercises. Now fully revised and updated, Robinson's renowned guide proves once again that learning about wine can be just as engaging as drinking it. What better way to learn about wine than to taste it? Written in Robinson's trademark accessible style, the new *How to Taste* features thoroughly updated vintages and producers as well as up-and-coming wine regions and styles. Incorporating wines that are both easily obtainable and reasonably priced, Robinson's lessons are separated into complementary portions of theory and practice to help you both learn and taste your way to wine expertise. One of the world's best-loved authorities on wine, Robinson explains first how to get the most out of the flavor of your wine and food, and then about specific grapes and the wines themselves. By the time you finish the book, you will have learned how to recognize the most popular grape varieties from Chardonnay and Riesling to Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon, and why a good sparkling wine is always better than cheap champagne. You will discover how to judge sweetness, acidity, and fruitiness as well as the difference between the length and the weight of a wine. You will also be given practical advice for dealing with wine in the real world: how to choose from a wine list, organize your own wine tastings, and pair wines with specific foods. From the armchair to the wine shop and back to the table, *How to Taste* will transform anyone on any level into a confident connoisseur who can leave faltering sips behind and have fun along the way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whether Montessori or Merlot, kindergarten or Cabernet, the importance of a good instructor during the formative years is crucial. That's why newcomers to the world of wine could do a lot worse than having a corkscrew in one hand and a copy of Jancis Robinson's *How to Taste* in the other. A revision of 1983's *Masterglass* and published in the U.K. under the superior title *Jancis Robinson's Wine-Tasting Workbook*, *How to Taste* is a primer by a certified Master of Wine and star of the PBS series *Jancis Robinson's Wine Course*. From acidity to Australian Shiraz, oak to Oregon Pinot, Robinson delivers chapters of information and theory, intermingled with shaded "Practice" exercises, presented in a style as off-dry as one of the author's beloved Rieslings (the tannin in a lesser vintage Barolo is "like sucking on a matchstick"). Sometimes tuition at Jancis U. runs high: the lesson on sugar/acid balance culminates with expensive Sauterne "Practice." And even if Robinson risks, by dropping words like "charred" and "umami" early in the book, sending novices back to tear open a fresh box of Franzia, vinous virgins are encouraged to stick with it. By the time they get to the glossary at book's end, they'll be identifying wines at blind tastings with professional accuracy--which, Robinson encouragingly reveals, and she ought to know, is about 50 percent.

--Tony Mason --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Perhaps the most talented of the world's wine writers...[with a] seemingly infinite ability to fashion informative, accurate books that are essential reading." -- Robert M. Parker, Jr. "The woman who makes the wine world gulp when she speaks...as unpretentious as Beaujolais Nouveau." -- Jerry Shriver, *USA Today* "I have watched her slowly tighten her grip on the wine world with awe...Don't be fooled by her twinkling television persona; her serious purpose is to open the wine world to all comers, at all levels. In the process she has become a household name -- for good." -- Hugh Johnson "The Julia Child of wine." -- Peter M. Gianotti, *Newsday* "She is simply the best wine writer working today. No one else comes close to Robinson's combination of tasting acuity, prolific and authoritative writing, and wit." -- Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar* "A thorough, no-nonsense approach to unlocking some of the mysteries of appreciating and enjoying wine." -- Frank Prial, *The New York Times* "For those who want to learn how to taste wine, the Robinson approach is hard to beat!" -- Gerald D. Boyd, *San Francisco Chronicle* "By a long measure the best wine writer in the world." -- Paul Levy, *The Wall Street Journal*

This is a really great primer on wine, and I would think it would be especially good if you have the time and inclination to try all of the "homework". (I drink very little wine, so I've not really been a great student of the book, but it's interesting to read when I'm trying something new!) The only little disappointment was that the edition of the book I bought was not the same as the edition I had checked out of my library - it's smaller, so the images and text are smaller than the book I first read on loan. However, it is a newer edition, so at least the information is up to date.

I had the earlier edition of this book and really enjoyed it. When I saw a new edition came out I decided to "upgrade." I have not read through the new edition yet, but just perusing the pages I cannot see anything new or updated with this edition, save for the cover and typography. Not sure what warranted a new edition. Typically the author will introduce the new edition explaining the rationale for the update and what has changed. There's nothing in this book. I still gave the book 5 stars because the content is great. However, if you have the earlier edition I see no reason to get the new one.

The topic of wine can intimidate many people and Jancis goes out of her way to diminish the fear factor. Many of her explanations are excellent, her exercises are fun and she is always encouraging and positive. The best part is that she really does help the reader identify and isolate the different building blocks of taste: for example, what does acidity feel like on your tongue, and what does it taste like in a yoghurt versus lemon, and finally in a young pinot noir versus and aged cabernet? However, at times I found that Jancis did not give enough information and left me confused. For instance, she says that Riesling wines fall into the semi-sweet category, but neglects to mention that this is only for German Rieslings; Rieslings from Alsace are very dry. Buy this book if you are willing to spend homework time in the wine store and reading other books, supplementing what Jancis tells you herself. Also, since most of these exercises are based on blind tastings, buy the book only if you have someone with whom to do them.

Nice resource

I like my wine but wanted to go deeper into understanding what I tasting or enjoying and also why. The question was where to start. I was very lucky, this book was a great start. The first part will teach you how to use your taste buds, and give you a foundation for tasting, then teach you about the grape and the wine. Also the difference in country and regions. I went from there to Kevin Zraly's

Windows On The World Complete Wine Course. Jancis's book prepared me well for this second wine book by Kevin. I hope to read Jancis's book again when I finish Kevin's book and I believe I will get much more out of it. Also she write for us common folks.

Although I have enjoyed wine for many years, I decided to dig a little deeper and sharpen my tasting skills and knowledge of the various varieties. This is an excellent book that was perfect for what I was looking for. Highly recommended for the beginner or for those that appreciate wines but want more information on tasting or varietals.

This book was the text to my UCLA extension "Intro to Wine"~~ an excellent supplement to the class!! I could have purchased the book and easily learned the subject. A great gift for those interested in learning about wine!

I actually put this book at about a 4.5 rating. This is a great little handbook that helps educate the reader about blind tasting and tasting terms. As far as learning about critical evaluation of wine this is a must unless you have access to the WSET Advanced Handbook (you have to be a WSET student). Bravo Jancis on another great read.Pros: has great tasting games and tips, great terms, well writtenCons: limited scope, some non-pertinant info

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