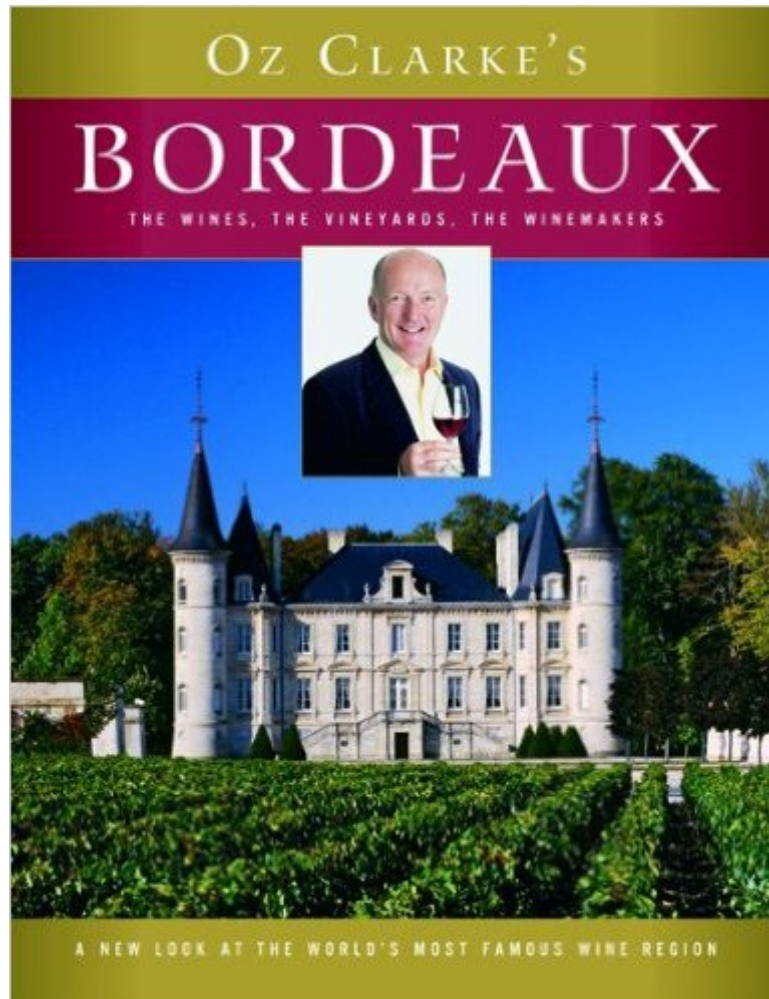


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Oz Clarke's Bordeaux: The Wines, The Vineyards, The Winemakers



Synopsis

Bordeaux has always been the center of attention in the wine world, with some of the greatest wines, the most historic châteaux, and the highest level of glamour and prestige. And, despite increasing competition from new classic wine areas around the world, it still accounts for more than 90 percent of global wine futures and auction markets. In his trademark A-to-Z format, Oz profiles more than three hundred of Bordeaux's most important châteaux as well as their second wines and discount brands, and recommends and describes hundreds of other châteaux. With color photos, wine labels, charts, and maps throughout, this volume covers each of Bordeaux's subregions in sumptuous detail—fully exploring the area's history, geography, soils, and grape varieties. Oz is at his witty, incisive best on this region, which he has both championed and challenged for years. With his vivid descriptions of the area as well as his knowledge of classic and best-value wines, this is an essential book for all lovers of Bordeaux wine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very enjoyable book to leaf through, filled with a variety of photographs along with many interesting sidebars and lists of wines to sample; however, because the focus is on Clarke's love affair with the Bordeaux region and its wines, and because much of the text assumes knowledge of complex subject matter that many readers will not have, it's not necessarily a good primer for those who are just beginning to make their way through the maze of Bordeaux wines. Look to Stephen Brook's "The Complete Bordeaux" for that. A couple of other caveats: Clarke could have used a

better editor as many sentences ramble on to the point of incomprehension. And while the book is filled with gorgeous photographs, I would like to have seen fewer photos in which the author appears. Do we really need to see Oz Clarke getting a facial in a Bordeaux spa? Despite these quibbles, "Oz Clarke's Bordeaux" is a fascinatingly eclectic book that any Bordeaux enthusiast would do well to have on their shelf. I bought a copy through an reseller for a few dollars - a steal at that price.

Clarke's book is a must for anyone interested in learning more about Bordeaux. His passion and jovial approach to the subject made it a page-turner, and also a resource manual. Actually, I have purchased many wines based on his reviews contained within the book. My only slight criticism is the way in which he rated almost every year from every vineyard as being "their best years." That certainly cannot be and I would have rather had him be a little more critical, and less diplomatic. That could simply be the difference between myself and American, and Mr. Clarke, a Brit.... :). Great book, do buy it.

I purchased this as a gift to accompany a bottle of wine (purchased in Bordeaux) that we gave as a Christmas gift. The book included the ChÃ¢teau the wine came from. I reading through the book I found it easy to locate items as you would any reference book along with parts organized as a non reference book. It is not very thick and not overwhelming for someone just learning about Bordeaux wine or someone more experienced that wants a quick compact reference on just Bordeaux wine.

Is this a complete treatise on Bordeaux? No! If you want that, Stephen Brook fills the role really well. If you want a multitude of tasting notes, Broadbent and (sigh) Parker offer that. But if what you're aiming for is an eminently digestible, easy read that entertains as well as informs, you've found it. This was one of the first books on Bordeaux I read and coming back to it after a while, I'm really struck by how upbeat Clarke is. There's no terrible complaint and dissatisfaction, just a "different strokes for different folks" attitude written by a guy who's clearly in love with the region. I get the sense that he enjoys tasting these wines more than he enjoys giving them a score, which I think is something that can't so frequently be said anymore. In short, an excellent, brief overview of the region and its chateaux as well as some useful travel tips. On cellartracker.com as "Englishman's Claret"

Easy to read and full of fabulous wine labels. Oz takes the reader on a tour of Bordeaux's most

famous vines. Suddenly intricate labels and classifications become comprehensible. His enthusiasm is contagious and makes one want to shop their favorite wine shop!

This is a superb book for the wine enthusiast, combining a travel guide to the Bordeaux region, primer on the growing and production process, and guide to the various appellations. It is especially useful for the wine enthusiast like me, who has some basic knowledge but no real expertise. It would be very useful in planning a trip to the region, and I plan to try it out later this year.

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