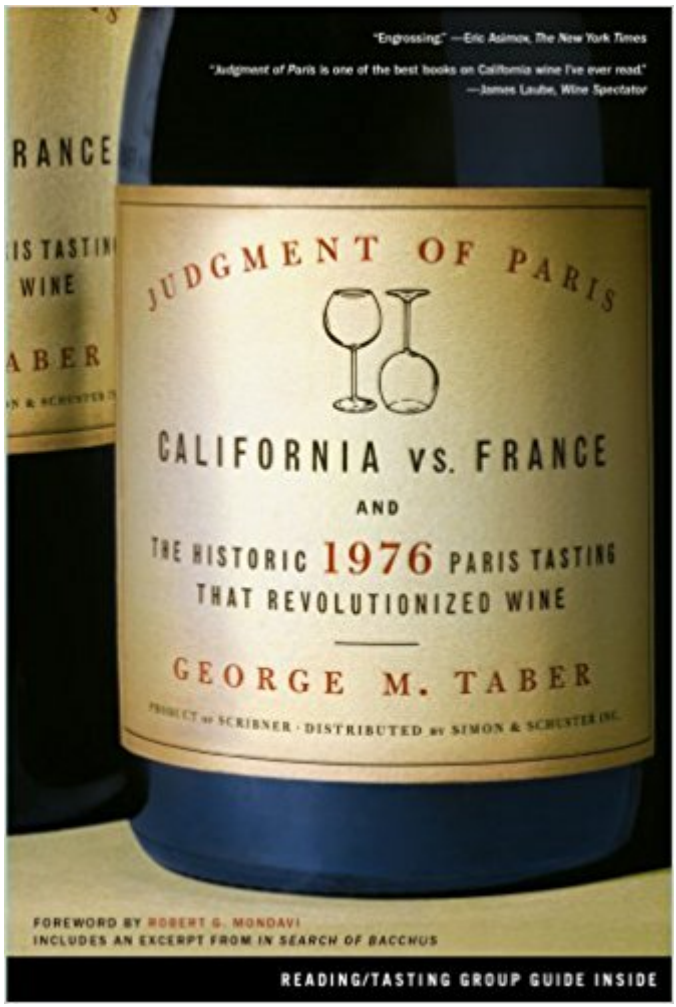
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Judgment Of Paris



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Synopsis

The only reporter present at the mythic Paris Tasting of 1976Ã¢â ¬â •a blind tasting where a panel of esteemed French judges chose upstart California wines over FranceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bestÃ¢â ¬â •for the first time introduces the eccentric American winemakers and records the tremendous aftershocks of this historic event that changed forever the world of wine.The Paris Tasting of 1976 will forever be remembered as the landmark event that transformed the wine industry. At this legendary contestÃ¢â ¬â •a blind tastingÃ¢â ¬â •a panel of top French wine experts shocked the industry by choosing unknown California wines over FranceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best. George M. Taber, the only reporter present, recounts this seminal contest and its far-reaching effects, focusing on three gifted unknowns behind the winning wines: a college lecturer, a real estate lawyer, and a Yugoslavian immigrant. With unique access to the main players and a contagious passion for his subject, Taber renders this historic event and its tremendous aftershocksÃ¢â ¬â •repositioning the industry and sparking a golden age for viticulture across the globe. With an eclectic cast of characters and magnificent settings, Judgment of Paris is an illuminating tale and a story of the entrepreneurial spirit of the new world conquering the old.

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Customer Reviews

In 1976, a Paris wine shop arranged a tasting as a gimmick to introduce some California wines; the judges, of course, were all French and militantly chauvinistic. Only one journalist bothered to attend, a Time correspondent, looking for a possible American angle. The story he got turned out to be a

sensation. In both red and white blind tastings, an American wine won handily: a 1973 Stag's Leap cabernet and a 1973 Chateau Montelena chardonnay. When the story was published the following week, it stunned both the complacent French and fledgling American wine industriesÃ¢â ¬â •and things have never been the same since. Taber, the Time man, has fashioned an entertaining, informative book around this event. Following a brisk history of the French-dominated European wine trade with a more detailed look at the less familiar American effort, he focuses on the two winning wineries, both of which provide him with lively tales of colorful amateurs and immigrants making good, partly through willingness to experiment with new techniques. While the outrage of some of the judges is funny, this is a serious business book, too, sure to be required reading for American vintners and oenophiles. Photos. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1976, a Paris-based British wine merchant, Steven Spurrier, organized a blind tasting of California and French wines in honor of the bicentennial of the American Revolution. With labels hidden from view, French wine experts in attendance at Spurrier's event pronounced the California wines generally superior to those from France. Some judges professed to be unable even to discern which wines were French and which American. Media reports of this tasting sent shockwaves throughout the wine world. Thirty years after the event, this seems very old news, but at the time it marked an absolute revolution in taste and in expectations. California's wine industry took off, commanding ever-higher prices and attracting even more talent. French wineries were forced to innovate and find better ways to market their formerly unrivalled bottlings. Taber expands on the events leading up to this celebrated event with a readable, concise history of wine making in America, recounting the long journey from sweet, sacramental concord grape wines to today's range of sophisticated offerings. Mark KnoblauchCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was in the US Navy in Chicago 1975-77. I was also beginning a hobby of collecting wine. After a trip to Napa Valley I began to pay attention to California wines. In mid-1976 I read an article in the NY Times about a tasting that had occurred in Paris earlier that summer in which 2 California wines, Stag's Leap 1973 CS and Chateau Montelena 1975 Chardonnay had bested a group of respectable French Bordeaux and Bergundy wines. What was particularly striking was the all-French tasting panel. I purchased a case of the 1973 Stag's Leap and enjoyed it over the next several years. I still

have two bottles that have been stored under reasonable conditions and will open them one of these days. The account in the Judgement of Paris by George Tabor is well-written, factual (as I recall the events) and captures some of the ferment (no pun intended) of 1970s California wine making. It was a different time when it was possible to meet and get to know (for the purchase of a half-dozen bottles of wine) some of the greats. Joseph Swan, Joe Heitz, Warren Winarski, and even Robert Mondavi were accessible with some effort. What a trip it has been. Mr. Taber puts these early days (actually not the early days, but the post prohibition renaissance) in perspective very nicely and captures some of the uncertainty and headiness of those days. I had not read this book before, but enjoyed it very much.

Very well written and very informative not only on the Judgement but also about the process of winemaking. I just started reading it after having come from Napa for the weekend and visiting Stag’s Leap, Grgich Hills, Mondavi and others. If you’re planning a trip to the area, do yourself a favor and read this book beforehand. You’ll go to Napa with your eyes wide open. You’ll also probably quit your job, buy a house in Napa and start dabbling in the wine business. This book could cost you millions! OK, kidding. Kind of. Great book.

An excellent read for folks who want to develop an in-depth knowledge of wines and winemaking in the U.S. and France.The author, George M. Taber, has followed this excellent factual documentary text with another great book which I highly recommend.George’s next wine book is "To Cork or Not to Cork. It may not sound exciting, but George has done an outstanding job of researching the technology of sealing wine bottles over a rather extended period of time.He points up the issues, the alternatives, the problems, the quality control issues of cork production, and has written an excellent thesis on the move to screw-top technology.For me, this book achieved the remarkable status of being nearly a "Page Turner". Excitement in Corking!!

An expansive history of the development of the modern wine industry in California presented as a set of partial biographical sketches. This approachable and generally unpretentious work gives on a real taste of the perception and period zeitgeist behind the ’rise’ of California ’quality’ wines in the 70s and 80s. While it cannot escape its own subjective boundaries, which it certainly ’bumps up against repeatedly, respecting the rational and character of the whole phenomenon, it indulges them gently enough to do no violence to a fairly objective vision of those characters, times and events leading up to the now famous "Judgement of Paris". This volume is a welcome ’reality check’ to the

rather ’over-the-top’ caricature of the motion picture ’Bottle Shock’, and gives the casual reader some insight into the reality so entertainingly distorted by the movie’s ’Hollywood Treatment" of the principle event around which the story revolves. It’s well worth the price and time to read.

I love this book - it gives a wealth of information about the 1970s wine market, the burst of California wines on to the consciousness of the world wine market, and the historic Paris tasting that forever changed how we think about wine. George Taber was the only journalist on hand for the famous tasting, but the tasting results, and his account, made waves around the oenophile community.The book was (loosely) adapted into a fun film called "Bottle Shock", which is enjoyable to watch, but several details were changed in the film to move the narrative.

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