



Wine
from Neolithic Times to the 21st Century

Stefan K. Estreicher
Algora, New York, 2006
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2008 President's Book Award
(second place)
Texas Tech University

BOOK NEWS, Inc.

Accessible and compact, yet thorough and informative, this history of wine use and wine making will find readers among students of the industry as well as curious wine drinkers of both novice and experienced vintage. Estreicher, a physics professor at Texas Tech U., shares his enjoyment of the subject in this well-written history, clearly a labor of love and long-term study. Some illustrations support the text<-->small, b&w digital reproductions that do the job without pretension.

CHOICE (July, 2007)

Estreicher (physics, Texas Tech Univ) provides a very interesting story of wine from earliest times to the present. The book contains more history and geography than science. The historical narrative includes the key developments and major challenges that impacted wine production, and describes the importance of wine as a safe beverage because of the effect of the alcohol on the viability of many bacteria that have negative human impacts after ingestion. Although the early story of wine takes place in the Middle East and Europe, wine was an important beverage that was traded and later produced in most parts of the world where grapes would grow. Since the Middle Ages, French wines were considered the best until 1976, when some California wines were found to be of equal or better quality. The University of California at Davis has a research and education program in viticulture that has advanced the wine industry in California. Numerous illustrations; good bibliography. Very easy to read.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; lower- and upper-division undergraduates; professionals; two-year technical program students.

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This book takes you on an adventure spanning 7,000 years in which you not only learn about the history of wine, but also fun little bits of information that are entertaining. It also offers a greater oversight about history and how the wonderful invention that is wine has affected us all. You can tell this is a true passion for the author; it is fun for him so he makes it fun for you, the reader, by encouraging a curiosity that keeps you turning the pages.

