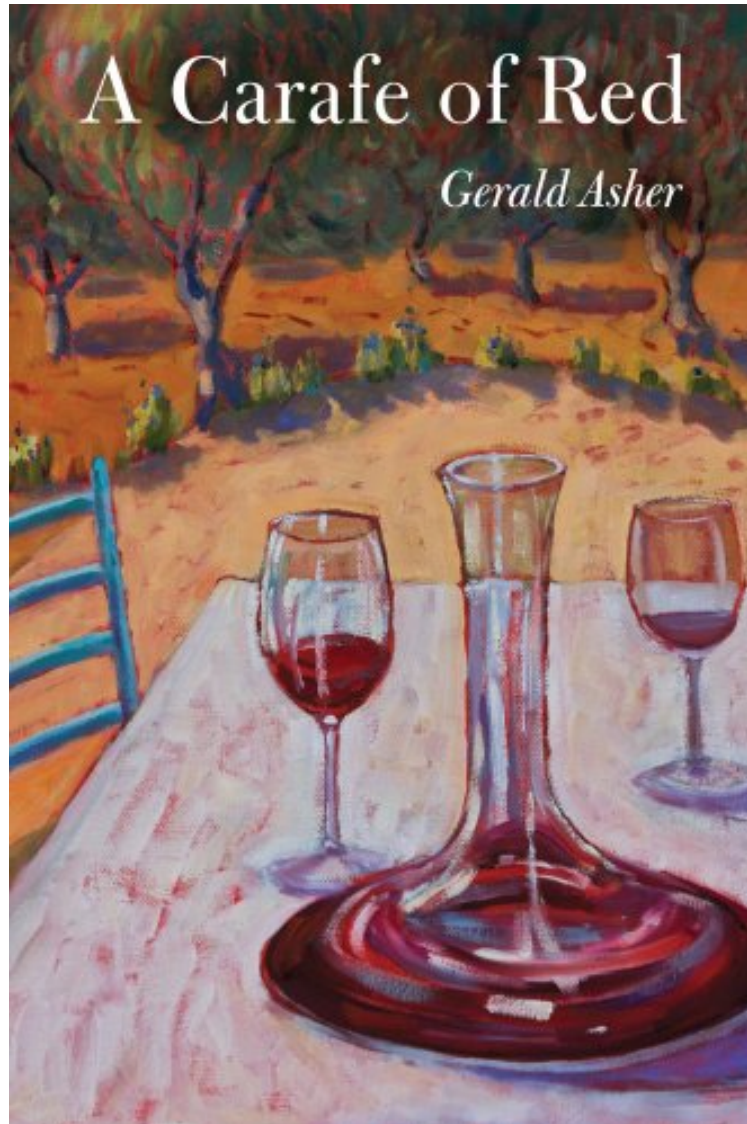


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A Carafe of Red

Gerald Asher

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Gerald Asher : A Carafe of Red before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Carafe of Red:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stories that are Filled with FactsBy Harriet LembeckThis book is filled with personal wine stories that are beautifully written, and which also give a lot of depth to the subject.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Dreaming of ParisGreat book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wine lovers who read will like thisBy DarrenIngram_dot_comIf your enjoyment of wine is more than pure alcohol consumption and you are not adverse to drifting off into a bit of a travel daydream, this book

might be a pleasant companion for you. International wine expert, merchant and author Gerald Asher has taken many of his published articles over the decades and polished them up and presented them into an anthology of fine wine writings, presenting many detailed accounts of wines from Europe and the Americas. Yet this is not another "how-to" wine guide but essays built around a wine region or type. Of course, through reading the various essays, the reader stands to gain quite a bit of knowledge but it would be fair to say it would be more background, scene-setting than helping you determine that the '76 was a much better year than the '75 and the whys and wherefores behind that decision. Reviewing such anthologies is hard work as the reader forms a personal connection to the book, or not, as the case may be. Certainly the underlying material is interesting, comprehensive, encompassing and more-ish in nature. The writing is more welcoming and suitable for the general reader than being elitist and closed - an impression you sometimes get when reading about wines. A fine balance has been reached and the material does not feel dumbed-down. It might not be too much to suggest that even those who like to read travelogues yet have no deep passion for wine might additionally find this book to be worthy of a read. A few negatives? Well it depends on your expectations. This is a book of text. It is not full of colour photographs (a shame!) with the fine text spread around them. This is an exercise of reading rather than just consuming. Will the reader feel cheated? It depends on what they thought they were getting and such text-rich books are less common in today's visual society. Apposite pictures would have made things even better but the rich text manages to still convey the entire scene. Some books use pictures at the expense of the quality of the text, yet with books of this kind if there was even a risk of dilution then it is probably best they are not used. So all in all, this is a good little book. It could be ideal for hunkering down on the sofa with a bottle by your side, reading whilst getting warm from a roaring fire. Or, of course, ideal reading material whilst on a journey somewhere. A good excuse to lose yourself for a while in good written company.

Every wine has a story. In this collection of elegantly written essays from the past thirty years, updated with a new introduction and endnotes, renowned author Gerald Asher informs wine enthusiasts with insightful, engrossing accounts of wines from Europe and America that offer just as much for those who simply enjoy vivid evocations of people and places. Asher puts wine in its context by taking the reader on a series of discursive journeys that start with the carafe at his elbow. In his introduction, Asher says, "Wine . . . draws on everything and leads everywhere." Whether the subject is a supposedly simple red wine shared in a Parisian cafe or a Napa Valley Cabernet tasted with its vintner, every essay in *A Carafe of Red* is as pleasurable as the wines themselves.

"A terrific introduction to one of the greatest wine writers of our times. . . . Complexity [that's] easy to savor."