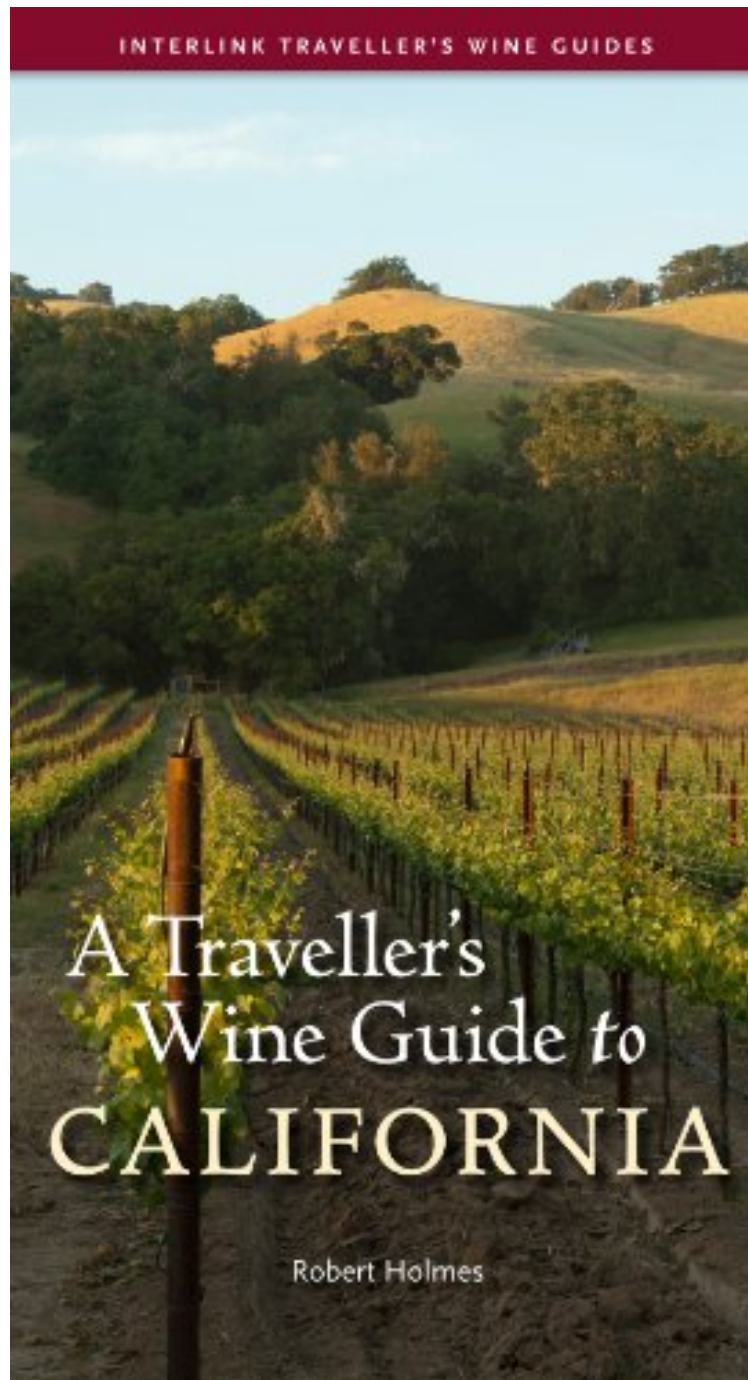


[PDF] A Traveller's Wine Guide to California (Traveller's Wine Guides)

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Robert Holmes

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Robert Holmes : A Traveller's Wine Guide to California (Traveller's Wine Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Traveller's Wine Guide to California (Traveller's Wine Guides):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This was so unhelpful. The condescending tone used was ...By S. Gentry This was so unhelpful. The condescending tone used was irritating and it didn't contain a lot of information I didn't already know. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great Guidebook to California's "Wine Country" By Dick Jordan With this opening sentence in the introduction to A Traveller's Wine Guide to California, Robert Holmes starts his readers off on a journey through the Golden State's American Viticulture Areas: "If California were an independent nation it would be the fourth leading wine-producing country in the world after Italy, France and Spain." By the time their virtual north to south trip has ended, some two hundred-odd pages later, they will know where to find the best wine, the best food, and the best places to bunk while in the pursuit of it. "TO SPIT OR SWALLOW," AND OTHER TIPSTraveller's Wine Guide to California supplies the reader with useful background information, including typical winery tasting room hours of operation, wine tasting fees, how wines are classified, and how to decipher wine ratings found on grocery store and wine shop "shelf-talker" labels. Unless you're riding in a bus or van on an organized tour, you'll be behind the wheel when going from winery to winery. As Holmes drolly notes: "The idea of traveling in California without a car is like mating with a gorilla. It is possible (or so I've been told), but is it worth the difficulty?" What about the delicate question of tasting room etiquette: Should I "spit" or swallow? Holmes' advice: After a sniff of the nose and a small sip, it's best to spit, or politely pour out, most of wine in your glass into a "dump bucket" on the tasting room counter rather than consume every last drop, drive down the highway in a glazed-eye stupor, on the road to jail and an expensive lesson in California's drunk-driving laws. TAKING IT FROM THE TOP Aptly enough, A Traveller's Wine Guide to California begins its wine adventure in the Napa Valley, which shifted the state's slow-moving, post-Prohibition wine industry into high gear when its wines outclassed those from France in a 1976 wine tasting event known as "The Judgment of Paris." It's the place that most wine fanciers visiting Northern California head to first. THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AND BEYOND Next the guidebook turns its attention west to Sonoma County and Buena Vista, the state's first commercial winery, established in 1857. There's also a section on the history of the surrounding town. After reviewing the "No Wimpy Wines" at Ravenswood, Holmes leaves the Town of Sonoma and heads north on Highway 12th through the Valley of The Moon. BR Cohn Winery, founded by the manager of the Doobie Brothers band and Arrowood Winery, are two places that Holmes recommends visiting to taste wine. Blending wine and history continues at Jack London State Park near Glen Ellen where the author of Call of The Wild once lived. Then Holmes takes the short drive downhill to the bio-dynamically farmed vineyards at Benziger Family Winery. Following a quick review of the county seat, Santa Rosa, A Traveller's Wine Guide to California passes through the Chalk Hill, Alexander Valley, and Dry Creek AVAs near Healdsburg. Then it's down the Russian River, past Green Valley, with a final stop at the Sonoma Coast appellation. Holmes travels north up the coast and inland to Mendocino and Lake County before moving on to the wine growing regions to the south and east. AND THEN THERE'S THE REST While the focal point of the California industry lies in the bucolic setting of the state's vineyards, A Traveller's Wine Guide to California lists five locations in the metropolitan San Francisco Bay Area, including three within the City of San Francisco itself, where you can taste wine. The next 80-plus pages of the guidebook takes the reader on a ramble through the wine growing regions south of San Francisco, down through Monterey County and the Central Coast, with a stop in Santa Barbara County where the quirky cinematic exhalation to Pinot Noir, Sideways, was set, and all the way to San Diego. Holmes concludes his grand tour of California's wine country with a sprint up the Central Valley to Madera, Lodi, and Clarksburg, and then crosses the finish line in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range separating California from Nevada. PUTTING IT ALTOGETHER A numbered map at the beginning of each chapter of A Traveller's Wine Guide to California is keyed to a list of wineries and tourist attractions, while their addresses, phone numbers, Websites, and hours of operation follow the end of sections within the chapter on the individual towns or AVA where they are located. "Where to Stay and Eat" will help you find a place to sleep or get a meal. "Wine Labels to Look For" in each chapter will be handy pictorial guide when shopping for wine in a local grocery store or wine shop. Let's Go Drink Wine! Whenever your search for wine in California, Robert Holmes' A Traveller's Wine Guide to California should be your companion. To borrow a phrase from those ads for the American Express credit card: Don't Leave Home Without It!

This guidebook gives you everything you need to know when touring California's beautiful wine country. If California were an independent nation it would be the fourth leading wine-producing country in the world after Italy, France and Spain. And nowhere else will you find more visitor-friendly wineries. Sampling these and tasting their wines is a rewarding experience, but, faced with the bewildering variety of wineries on offer, it's hard to know where to start. This book guides the wine tourist not only through the better-known regions of Napa and Sonoma, but also the Central Coast, Santa Barbara County and Southern California and gives ample recommendations on where to stay and eat in

and around each region. A Traveller's Wine Guide to California contains spectacular photography as well as easily-accessible information on such topics as The Winery Experience and The System of Classification and Grape Varieties.

... a boon to travellers and wine lovers alike... an astonishing amount of practical advice, historical and architectural information, an easy-to-read breakdown of every wine area in their chosen countries... These books are sure to inspire holiday makers to set off in new directions... Decanter Magazine Each offers invaluable information... clear, colorful maps, driving times... descriptions of the regions and their wines... itineraries, and times and places for local wine festivals. ...Most important, perhaps, the guides provide names of wine producers who speak English and who welcome guests to their cellars. Frank Prial, Wine Talk, The New York Times --.About the Author Robert Holmes is an award-winning photographer and author. He has been named Travel Photographer of the Year by the Society of American Travel Writers for an unprecedented three years in 1990, 1992 and 2010. He has written four books and supplied the photographs for more than 40 others, the latest being Passion for Pinot.