



Adventures on the Wine Route: A Wine Buyer's Tour of France

By Kermit Lynch



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When *Adventures on the Wine Route* was first published, Victor Hazan said, "In Kermit Lynch's small, true, delightful book there is more understanding about what wine really is than in everything else I have read." A quarter century later, this remarkable journey of wine, travel, and taste remains an essential volume for wine lovers. In 2007, Eric Asimov, in *The New York Times*, called it "one of the finest American books on wine," and in 2012, *The Wall Street Journal* proclaimed that it "may be the best book on the wine business."

In celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, *Adventures on the Wine Route* has been thoroughly redesigned and updated with an epilogue and a list of the great wine connoisseur's twenty-five most memorable bottles. In this singular tour along the French wine route, Lynch ventures forth to find the very essence of the wine world. In doing so, he never shies away from the attitudes, opinions, and beliefs that have made him one of our most respected and outspoken authorities on wine. Yet his guiding philosophy is exquisitely simple. As he writes in the introduction, "Wine is, above all, about pleasure. Those who make it ponderous make it dull . . . If you keep an open mind and take each wine on its own terms, there is a world of magic to discover." *Adventures on the Wine Route* is the ultimate quest for this magic via France's most distinguished vineyards and wine cellars. Lynch draws vivid portraits of vintners?from inebriated *négociants* to a man who oversees a vineyard that has been in his family for five hundred years?and memorably evokes the countryside at every turn. "The French," Lynch writes, "with their aristocratic heritage, their experience and tradition, approach wine from another point of view . . . and one cannot appreciate French wine with any depth of understanding without knowing how the French themselves look at their wines, by going to the source, descending into their cold, humid cellars, tasting with them, and listening to the language they employ to describe their wines."

Here, Kermit Lynch assures a whole new generation of readers?as well as his loyal fans?that discussions about wine need not focus so stringently on "the pH, the oak, the body, the finish," but rather on the "gaiety" of the way "the tart fruit perfume[s] the palate and the brain."

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Adventures on the Wine Route: A Wine Buyer's Tour of France By Kermit Lynch Bibliography

- Rank: #153675 in Books
- Published on: 2013-11-12
- Released on: 2013-11-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.22" h x .4" w x 6.41" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“One of the pleasantest and truest books about wine I've ever read.” ?M. F. K. Fisher

“Kermit's book changed my thinking about wine. Colorful encounters with larger-than-life personalities, the primacy of the land and authenticity, plus a good dose of humorous anecdotes to keep you entertained. This book deserves to stay in print forever!” ?Alice Waters

“*Adventures on the Wine Route* is the best book I've ever read about wine. Kermit Lynch is as brilliant a writer as he is a taster, and his quest for authentic wine is more relevant than ever.” ?Jay McInerney

“When one enters a bookstore nowadays and goes to the section reserved for books about wine, one is overwhelmed by how immensely it has grown. In this jungle where obsolescence is rampant, only a very few will become classics. *Adventures on the Wine Route* is surely one of them--a quarter of a century old and not one wrinkle! The author's prose, his lyrical descriptions, his enthusiasm--not to mention his unique experiences along 'his' wine route--will delight, instruct, and cast an indelible spell on readers for years to come.” ?Aubert and Pamela de Villaine

“I am simply thrilled by it. I am bowled over by his blend of poetry and candour. What heaven-sent common sense.” ?Hugh Johnson

“Quirky, opinionated, maddening, hilarious . . . riveting, illuminating, totally original . . . Strongly recommended.” ?Clive Coates

About the Author

Kermit Lynch was born and raised in California. In 1972, he opened a retail wine shop and later began importing and distributing nationally. In 1988, he published *Adventures on the Wine Route*, which won the Veuve Clicquot Wine Book of the Year Award. His second book, *Inspiring Thirst*, was published in 2004. Lynch divides his time between Berkeley and Provence, where he lives with his wife, the photographer Gail Skoff.

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