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Bacchus and Me: Adventures in the Wine Cellar

Jay McInerney

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"Brilliant, witty, comical, and often shamelessly candid and provocative thoughts about the world of wine and many of the people who produce it."

—Robert M. Parker, Jr.



Bacchus & Me



Adventures in the Wine Cellar



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#585034 in Books 2002-03-12 2002-03-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .64 x 5.201, .48 #File Name: 037571362X304 pages | File size: 25.Mb

Jay McInerney : Bacchus and Me: Adventures in the Wine Cellar before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bacchus and Me: Adventures in the Wine Cellar:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining but informative, or vice versaBy HLI love this book. I read it years ago and found it to be a fun way to learn more about wine. Some of the humorous ways he compares wines puts things into context better than more academically written books. I bought this copy for my sister as she's learning more about wine for work and she seems to enjoy it despite not being as big of a wine enthusiast as myself.1

of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy SunnieA great writer!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Topic well covered – and an eminently readable text.By R. Russell BittnerI must confess that I picked this book up only because I recognized the author's name and knew that I was long overdue to read something of Jay McInerney's. He's a local boy – and one who enjoys a possibly worldwide reputation thanks to the likes of BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY. I read a few pages and decided I'd give it a go. Jay's style, while not singular, is quite amusing. He writes like a very gifted kid, though also like one who's not overwhelmed with his own genius (no names, please). Since I pay my rent and my kids' tuition with the money I make from the business Jay writes about in these pages, I suppose I know a little about the business. I also spent a decade of my "professional student" career in Europe – specifically, in Switzerland; Austria; Italy: (then) West Germany; the (then) Soviet Union; and Spain – and was able to sample a variety of Old World wines. Just short of a year ago, I read a little thing titled WINE (ALL-IN-ONE) FOR DUMMIES – yes, all 600+ pages of it. And, given my employment, I probably now read a little something about wine every day. All of that said, I can easily recommend this book, whether to the neophyte or to the experienced connoisseur, as a worthwhile read. The former will find it educational; the latter will find it, at the very least, entertaining. McInerney touches upon the history, geography and topology of the wine-making and –drinking business just enough to render the book educational – and does so in a kind of wine-spritzer style to render the subject entertaining. If you have to start anywhere in this continually evolving world of wine, this is as good a place as I can imagine to get your feet wet and your palate titillated. If I have any criticism at all (and this frankly doesn't count as a valid criticism, given the subject-matter and its requirements), it's that the book seems just a tad dated. But in some sense at least, books about wine – just like books about gardening or cooking – never age out. And although this book may well be a mere collection of essays written over months or years for the likes of House Garden, Jay McInerney's prose doesn't age out either. Unlike many of the wines he describes, he's good to go – right now.RRB10/30/14Brooklyn, NY

Jay McInerney on wine? Yes, Jay McInerney on wine! The best-selling novelist has turned his command of language and flair for metaphor on the world of wine, providing this sublime collection of untraditional musings on wine and wine culture that is as fit for someone looking for "a nice Chardonnay" as it is for the oenophile.On champagne: "Is Dom Pérignon worth four bottles of Mo't Chandon? If you are a connoisseur, a lover, a snob, or the owner of a large oceangoing craft, the answer . . . is probably yes."On the difficulty of picking a wine for a vegetarian meal: "Like boys and girls locked away in same-sex prep schools, most wines yearn for a bit of flesh."On telling the difference between Burgundy and Bordeaux: "If it's red, French, costs too much, and tastes like the water that's left in the vase after the flowers have died, it's probably Burgundy."On the fungus responsible for the heavenly flavor of the dessert wine called Sauternes: "Not since Baudelaire smoked opium has corruption resulted in such beauty."Includes new material plus recommendations on the world's most romantic wines and the best wines to pair with a meal

.com Bright lights: Krug, Latour, Lafite, Montrose. Big cities: Montalcino, Hampstead, Reims, Geyserville. Welcome to Bacchus Me: Adventures in the Wine Cellar, bestselling novelist Jay McInerney's mixed four-case lot of wine essays culled primarily from his output of "Uncorked" pieces written for House Garden magazine. Reflecting the author's wit and opinion, it's tasty and stylish stuff. And nestled between glossy pages of photos depicting, say, a 396-square-foot TriBeCa loft decorated with a pair of Eames chairs purchased at a Brooklyn swap meet for \$45, McInerney's blend of self-deprecation (his "eyebrows raised and jaw dropped" when HG editors broached his name as wine columnist) and irreverence (on straw-covered Chianti bottles: the "bong component of choice in dorm rooms around the world") is refreshing juice. Unfortunately, as a compilation, it serves more to unmask a Eurocentric name-dropper: the bon-mot-coining D2 dilettante on an expense account who got the gig because he knew the editor. It's distressing, because there's so much to like here: "A Ticket to the Veneto" is a sparkling meld of ego and yeast; questioning whether or not to cellar wine, he concludes, "What could be more all-American than instant gratification?"; and his dead-on description of a Port hangover is quintessential McInerney. But numerous repetitions, imperceptible when published monthly, irritate when separated not by 30 days but 30 pages: Sauvignon Blanc's aroma of "pipi du chat" is funny the first time you read it, less so two essays later; likewise you won't find a single California piece that doesn't contain the words "dude" or "Helen Turley." And while it's admirable to break the mould of stuffy wine writing, McInerney's a bit long in the tastevin to adopt a "Wine Brat" posture comparing, for example, Martinelli Jackass Hill Zin more to "Free Bird" than "Jumpin' Jack Flash," or describing his first sip of Mouton "like hearing Nirvana on Saturday Night Live." Blame it on the editor, or maybe it just depends on how you devour Bacchus Me. Sipped slowly, McInerney's words taste of the passionate amateur oenophile and skilled raconteur. Gulp 'em down and the finish is of the bestselling bon vivant with a blank check. --Tony Mason "Brilliant, witty, comical, and often shamelessly candid and provocative thoughts about the world of wine and many of the people who produce it." –Robert M. Parker, Jr. "McInerney has become the best wine writer in America." –Salon.com "McInerney's wine judgments are sound, his anecdotes witty and his literary references impeccable. Not many wine books are good reads; this one is." –The New York Times "In the fruity, buttery world of wine writing, there's nothing else like it." –Atlanta

JournalFrom the Inside FlapJay McInerney on wine?" Yes, Jay McInerney on wine! The best-selling novelist has turned his command of language and flair for metaphor on the world of wine, providing this sublime collection of untraditional musings on wine and wine culture that is as fit for someone looking for "a nice Chardonnay" as it is for the oenophile."On champagne: "Is Dom Perignon worth four bottles of Mo't Chandon? If you are a connoisseur, a lover, a snob, or the owner of a large oceangoing craft, the answer . . . is probably yes."On the difficulty of picking a wine for a vegetarian meal: "Like boys and girls locked away in same-sex prep schools, most wines yearn for a bit of flesh."On telling the difference between Burgundy and Bordeaux: "If it's red, French, costs too much, and tastes like the water that's left in the vase after the flowers have died, it's probably Burgundy."On the fungus responsible for the heavenly flavor of the dessert wine called Sauternes: "Not since Baudelaire smoked opium has corruption resulted in such beauty." Includes new material plus recommendations on the world's most romantic wines and the best wines to pair with a meal