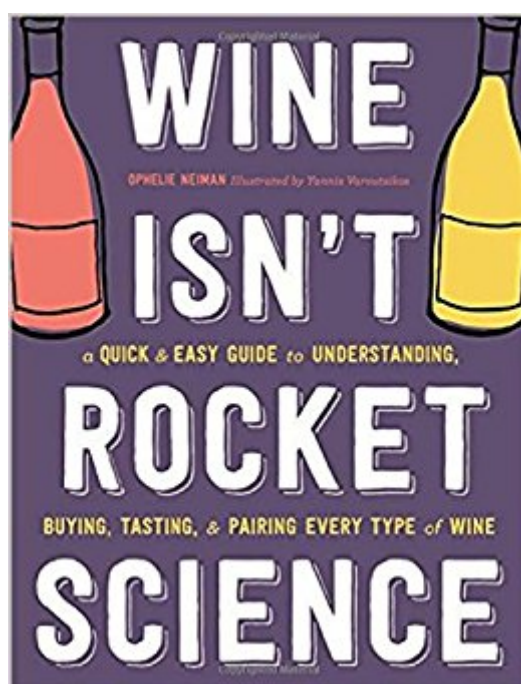


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# Wine Isn't Rocket Science: A Quick And Easy Guide To Understanding, Buying, Tasting, And Pairing Every Type Of Wine



## Synopsis

Rocket science is complicated, wine doesn't have to be! With information presented in an easy, illustrated style, and chock-full of the fool-proof and reliable knowledge of a seasoned oenophile, *Wine Isn't Rocket Science* is the guide you always wished existed. From how grapes are grown, harvested and turned into wine, to judging the color, aroma, and taste of the world's most popular varietals, to understanding terroir and feeling confident ordering and serving wine at any occasion, this book explains it all in the simplest possible way. Every page, every piece of information, and every detail is illustrated in charming and informative four-color drawings that explain concepts at a glance. Includes detailed information on the following varietals (wine made from a particular grape) in the order in which they're presented in the book: White Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc Chenin Gewürztraminer Viognier Semillon Riesling Marsanne Blend Rolle-Vermentino Muscat Pinot Grigio/Gris Pinot Blanc Muscadet Soave Albarino Torrontes Gruner Veltliner Assyrtiko Champagne Cava Prosecco Red Pinot Noir Cabernet-Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet-Franc Malbec Petit Verdot Bordeaux Blend Syrah Grenache Mourvedre Carignan Rhone/GSM Blend Gamay Nebbiolo Sangiovese Barbera Valpolicella Blend Aglianico Montepulciano Nero D'Avola Negroamaro Zinfandel Petit Sirah Carmenere Tempranillo Mencia Touriga Nacional Pinotage Blaufrankisch Lambrusco Rose Dessert Port Sherry Marsala Madeira Vin Santo Sauternes Tokaji Ice Wine

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## Customer Reviews

Ophelie Neiman is the author of the wine blog Miss GlouGlou. Hosted on the LeMonde website, it's one of the most popular wine blogs in France. Wine Isn't Rocket Science is her first book and it has been translated into 11 languages. She lives in France. Yannis Varoutsikos is an illustrator and graphic designer. He is artistic director at Woll Beer and founder of the website Good Manners, which sells bags and accessories for men. He lives in France.

Even though it was a bit particular on the wine regions, it was helpful for understanding how wine is made. I'm glad I read it.

For beginning wine enthusiasts, I think the book is great. The explanations and illustrations are excellent and captivating. The tasting guide is so nice to have. I use it all the time now when I'm tasting wine. The different sections are really well organized and it helps me with finding information again since the first time I read the book.

I really love this book. For me, the illustrations bring the book alive. You can read about wine and still not understand it. Here, however, the illustrations make the teachings clear. Some of the things you will learn are: Different varietals- highlighting the regions they grow in and key flavor profiles to look for when tasting each varietal. The different production processes of white, red, rosé, Champagne and sweet wines. Opening, pouring and pairing wines perfectly when entertaining guests. Decoding wine labels and tasting wine like a pro. The most productive wine regions around the world, but primarily France. The book comes with cheat sheets. It also comes with recommended vertical tastings. The book made me excited to try some new wine varieties. Here are some excerpts from the book, some fun, some insightful: "A good wine can make for a delightful evening, but a bad wine should not spoil it." "There are two ways to taste wine. Note: in both cases you have to put the wine in your mouth." "There are about 10,000 great varieties in the world. However, three quarters of the world's wine comes from the use of only a dozen of them." "Don't fill a glass more than 1/3rd full." and "Vinaigrette ruins a wine." Although this could be considered a book for beginners, it is broad enough that most people will enjoy this book and find something they didn't know before. I will now be able to impress guests by being able to choose the perfect bottle of wine for a large number of occasions. This book even teaches you how to taste wine and spit it out with grace. It also offers advice for inevitable circumstances like hangovers and the best way to cure them and removing wine stains. Best of all, it is just plain fun to read.

There is a lot of good information in this book, and the illustrations usually do a good job of helping to clarify and organize the information. I learned things from this book, and it makes a good reference book, however, some of its explanatory power was lost in the translation. If I had to guess, I would say the translation is too literal; it misses the subtle distinctions the author is making by favoring a word-for-word translation rather than trying to capture the sense of what's being said.\*In addition, the book is organized somewhat randomly, and it could have used some editing to bring a more coherent structure to it. I feel like the author is very knowledgeable about wine, but the book isn't always able to bridge the gap between her knowledge and the reader's.\*A quick example: Each of the varietals is given a "Love Rating" -- something that is never explained. Among the white varietals, Chardonnay is "the absolute top," Sauvignon Blanc is "the star of the white varietals," and SÃ©millon is "a champion." These all mean about the same thing in English, so any distinction is lost.

As a gal who appreciates a glass of wine (or two) I know some basics of wine but not enough to stand out from a crowd. When I saw the book, *Wine Isn't Rocket Science*, I had a good feeling that this could help me learn a lot without being overly technical. The first thing I noticed (and appreciated) was the flow of the book. There are a total of six chapters in the book. Each chapter is devoted to an individual and encompasses subjects that directly effect the given topic. For example, chapter one is in regards to planning a party. Some of the topics included were which glassware to use, how to properly chill the wine, how to cure a hangover and how to clean up wine stains. The chapter subjects vary from learning how to taste wine, how wine harvests occur, visiting vineyards, becoming an apprentice sommelier and buying wine. The topics are presented in an approachable, conversational tone and are accompanied by helpful drawings. I loved the drawings and felt they added so much to this book and experience. At the end of the book, there are several "cheat sheets" that provide bullet point specifics from each chapter. I was surprised how quickly I read this book and how much I learned. I also found myself inspired to go out and try different wines and experiment more. I came out with a deeper appreciation for wine and a couple of fun facts that I can share with friends at our next dinner. I will admit that I enjoyed the book so much that I actually looked up the author to see if she had additional work to read but sadly this is her only book. Overall, this is the first wine book that I have read that I truly enjoyed, and I would happily give this to family and friends as a gift. Highly recommend!

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