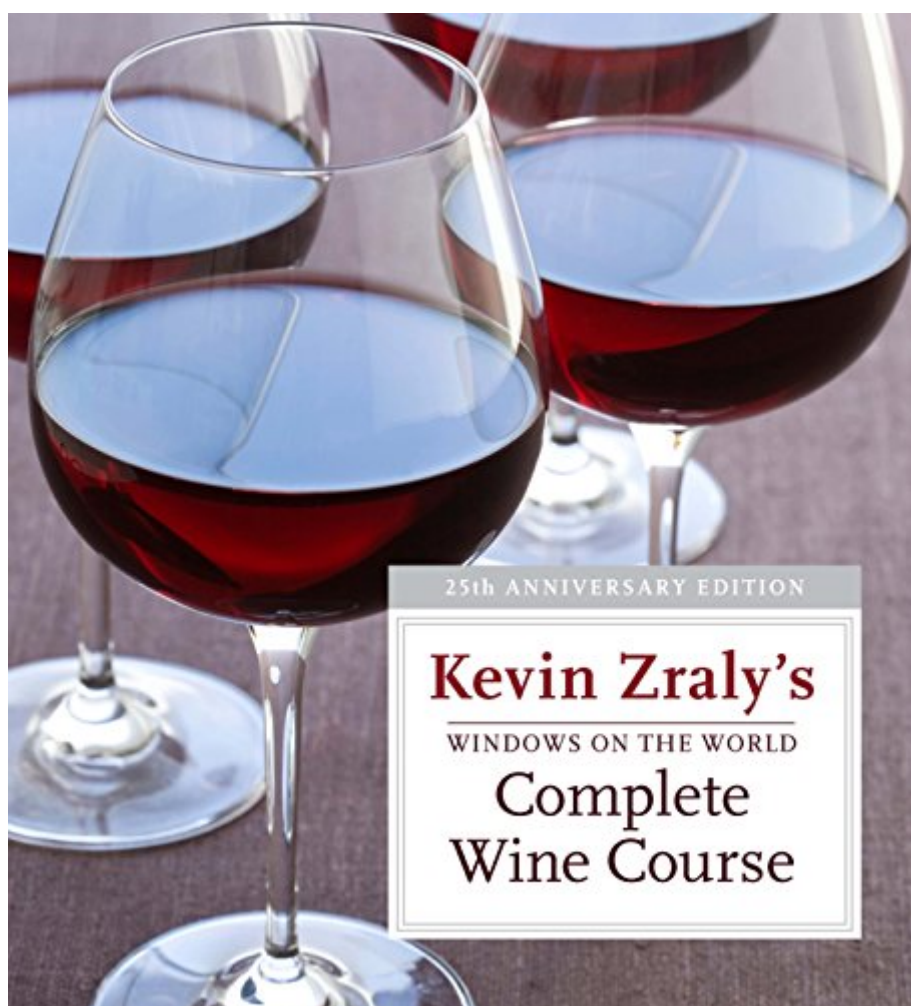


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Windows On The World Complete Wine Course: 25th Anniversary Edition (Kevin Zraly's Complete Wine Course)



Synopsis

Let's pop a cork and drink a toast to America's very best, most popular wine course! *Windows on the World Complete Wine Course* is celebrating its silver anniversary, and this classic volume now has new, updated material that wine lovers will savor. For this new edition, Kevin traveled to eighty wine regions in twenty countries, tasting more than 4,000 wines and meeting 500 winemaking professionals. To assure that he had all the latest wine-producing news, he recently visited vineyards in Austria, Hungary, Greece, New Zealand, South Africa, Chile, and Argentina. Plus, he has updated Wine-Buying Strategies, best vintages, wine lists, and labels. As always, the book includes Wine Basics, Tasting Wine, Matching Wine and Food, Frequently Asked Questions About Wine, and a Selected Glossary. Zraly goes region-by-region, with the wines organized from simple to complex. By following Kevin's order, readers will experience the best wines and a wide diversity of tastes, styles, regions, and countries. It's not only a comprehensive and bargain-priced hands-on wine education, and a superb catalog from which to start a wine cellar or find the right bottle, it's also an inexpensive way to get the knowledge Kevin imparts in his outstanding course. This is clearly the wine guide against which all others are judged.

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Customer Reviews

I just completed my L1 Sommelier certification and this book is really helpful at laying down the basics for anyone who wants to learn more about wine. I love Kevin's story (see Chapter 1) and the margins are packed with great facts, its simply brimming with information but doesn't feel overbearing at any point. I will need more in-depth books to get to the next level but, this is an excellent starting point to lay a broad foundation of knowledge before diving into very specialized topics. I have plotted out a series of personal tastings over the next 8 weeks using Kevin's book as a framework. Very helpful, indeed!

Still reading the book but one thing I am finding VERY frustrating is none of the QR codes (or the Bitly addresses below them) are functional. They all go to error pages. I'm hoping the publisher sees this review and gets them fixed so readers can watch the videos. I will check them again and update my review when I'm done reading the book.

Ordered the hardcover edition. None of the promised QR codes are printed in the book. None of the video or pronunciation links work. These features would have made the book far more useful as an intro to wine. I suppose as a bare-bones introduction to wine I suppose it's okay, but there are better for that purpose, such as MacNeil's Wine Bible or Hugh Johnson's World Atlas of Wine. I find the graphics eye-salad, long lists, sidebars and stats hodge-podge to be distracting and annoying.

This is a great introductory course for people who want to go beyond just a cursory understanding of wine. The quizzes help structure the learning well, and they go fairly far in depth. Overall, I thought the book was the perfect way to provide structure that other excellent books such as The Wine Bible does not. The layout is friendly, and the side bars with wine labels and blurbs with info are interesting. Unfortunately a few obvious errors make it feel a bit cobbled together, and they aren't in areas of the book I would have believed to just be about a recent update. For example, in the section on Australia, the main white grape varieties have Merlot listed but the section on Aussie reds has Semillon. I understand it's upside down world there, but I'm pretty sure this is incorrect. In another it says "Two of the best DOCG Tuscan wines come from... Barbaresco and Barolo." (This is under the correct Piedmont section) A few other examples are found in the book. None of these errors are disqualifying by any means. If you have any common sense at all you won't be more than

momentarily confused. So I still highly recommend the book.

Being a sommelier with numerous wine books in my collection, I was hesitant to add another entry level book to my repertoire. After reading this the past few days, I'm glad I did. Even for seasoned wine professionals such as myself, there are a plethora of interesting facts, charts and unique perspectives which Kevin describes in this book. Furthermore, it is written in a layman style which makes it suitable for all levels. Highly recommended.

Amazing. Going back to school in my old age, and therefore, working as a server. This book is truly well-organized and has everything you could need. Knowing the basics of regions and types of grapes makes everything so much easier. Made every other wine book I bought obsolete. Only thing is the links to the expanded coverage no longer work, but it doesn't matter. If you go to YouTube, Zraly has more than a few fun to watch videos with Oz Clarke that will be well worth your time. I find myself reading this just for fun.

This is a great introduction for anyone new to wine, as I was. This is not intended to be the most complete reference for all wine, but is instead a colorful, focused, entertaining overview of wine today. Each chapter focuses on a different region or type of wine, providing background information on each wine area, the author's favorite wineries/producers from the area, a sample tasting (he picks several wines for you to try and also suggests alternatives if you can't find those particular bottles) and a quiz at the end to help you retain some of that information. A great book for any wine lover!

The book was well made and felt solid in my hands. The contents were also complete and helpful. The book pretty much followed what was taught in a university setting. I appreciate the attention paid to each wine producing region. There is no information on China, a important developing wine region with volume surpassing Germany and Chile, but it is same for most other wine books. The contents feel a bit jumbled because the author list by wine types rather than region (thus you would visit many places twice) but that is more of a personal thing. My only complain is the amount of brand suggestions. While I don't believe that there is collusion between the authors and the winemakers, brand suggestions are just not that helpful. Such suggestions always go out of date and thus the value offer by the book diminish as time goes on. I would've liked more wine descriptions rather than long list of brands.

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