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# Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2016



## Synopsis

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2016 is the essential reference book for everyone who buys wine - in shops, restaurants, or on the internet. Now in its 39th year of publication, it has no rival as the comprehensive up-to-the minute annual guide. Hugh Johnson provides clear succinct facts and commentary on the wines, growers and wine regions of the whole world. He reveals which vintages to buy, which to drink and which to cellar, which growers to look for and why. Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book gives clear information on grape varieties, local specialties and how to match food with wines that will bring out the best in both. This year's edition also contains a special color supplement on Riesling.

## Book Information

Series: Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Mitchell Beazley; Poc edition (September 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1784720909

ISBN-13: 978-1784720902

Product Dimensions: 3.9 x 0.9 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 144 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #746,430 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Collecting #110 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Buying Guides #358 in Books > Reference > Almanacs & Yearbooks

## Customer Reviews

Hugh Johnson is the world's pre-eminent writer on wine. First published in 1977, his Pocket Wine Book sells hundreds of thousands of copies a year. His winning formula of insight, critical appraisal of the world of wine, plus valuable vintage news and wine recommendations has been often-imitated but never bettered. With the publication of his first book, Wine, Johnson established himself at the age of twenty-seven as the most refreshing and authoritative voice on the subject. During the past four decades he has written books that have become landmarks on the subject, including his classic *The World Atlas of Wine*, co-authored with Jancis Robinson, his *Wine Companion*, first published in 2003, and *The Story of Wine*. In his spare time he writes about

gardening from his home in London.

Without doubt the best concise guide to the world's wines - however one cannot really call it a "Pocket Guide" anymore as it now has 336 pages. I used to buy the guide every year from the first one in 1977, but now plan every other year - the first I missed was 2014. Hugh Johnson is one of the most knowledgeable people in the world of wine, and for this guide draws on information from many regional specialists. If one wants to learn about reliable producers and interesting varietals from all over the world, this guide can take you from your current "comfort zone" to many other zones of enjoyment.

Every year this little book is the best new book printed that covers the whole world of wine. This edition follows in the footsteps of previous editions and is better than ever. Want to know the whole picture of wine in today's world? There is no better source of info than this book.

I have been buying these annuals for decades. I give them as gifts at birthdays and Christmas. I often add a bottle of wine to the gift. Everyone loves them and they look forward to receiving one the next year. They in turn buy them and give them as gifts. My one gift to them turns into dozens of more copies being gifted. Great guide!

I get this every year. I have at least 30 years worth. I use this regularly when shopping and when buying wines online. A helpful feature is the 'what temp' chart. Most US folks serve reds too warm and whites too cold. Follow Mr. Johnson's temp guide and you will enjoy your wines more.

The most comprehensive wine buying (and drinking) guide available, period, and all within a pocket sized book. If you are interested strictly in west coast wines, this may not be your favorite book, but if you are interested in all wines, and how to enjoy them, this is the first book you should buy.

If you had to make the decision as to which wine book is the only one to own, I would definitely recommend the Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book. It is a very useful tool for all: experts and beginners as well. I have been buying this book for over 20 years and during this time it has proven to be a very valuable source of information at restaurants, wine shops and wine tasting events. By the way, every year as soon as it is published I buy several copies to give to friends. Several very good wine encyclopedias and many other wine books and publications sit in my book case, but this

little gem is the only one that fits in your pocket and at the same time provides the information you need most of the time, a great plus! The quick vintage reference charts (ratings) covers German, Italian, Spanish, Australian, Californian, New Zealander, S. African and French wines for up to 18 years and 5 years for Californian wines where vintage year is not as important as European wines. The section on wine and food pairing is most useful when entertaining. Most of the book is devoted to fairly detailed information on major wine producing countries, local producers, specific labels, best years and other very useful recommendations and comments. It is a wonder how much information the author was able to pack into such a small package. By all means this is a must have for all wine lovers. Enjoy!

As a book, Hugh Johnson's annual Pocket Wine Book is a model of clarity. Wine buffs will find a long list of short but distinct entries, organized geographically and alphabetically within a country. There are also many tips on which wine goes with which food, the different ways to serve different wines, and descriptions of under appreciated and under publicized wines such as port and sherry. Wine lovers know of the rivalry between wine critics Robert Parker and Hugh Johnson, and Johnson fans the flames with two pages poking fun at Parker's 100 point scale. To be frank it is hard not to agree that Johnson's system is better. A simple four star system to rate quality coupled with a highlight to show his own preferences. This strikes me as the correct level of precision for the topic. However, this trivial dispute about how to rate wine overshadows the real disagreement between the two men, which is about how to make wine. Johnson believes in terroir (geography) and technology while Parker believes in traditional manufacture and grape varieties. Unfortunately, Johnson hardly ever acknowledges that particular dispute with Parker and completely lacks generosity to opposite viewpoints on these two issues. That I tend to see things Johnson's way does not make it less of a pity to me. The last failing costs the book one star. Or perhaps I should give it 96.5 points. Vincent Poirier, Tokyo

As in previous years this handy-sized book contains a wealth of information, in addition to helpful suggestions.

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