

hugh johnsons pocket wine book 2010

33rd edition

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 33rd Edition is a definitive guide for wine enthusiasts, connoisseurs, and casual drinkers alike. This celebrated annual publication, authored by the eminent wine critic Hugh Johnson, provides a wealth of knowledge about the world of wine, from tasting notes to regional specifics, making it an essential reference for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of wine. In this article, we will explore the key features and highlights of the 2010 edition, offering insights into why it remains a popular choice among wine lovers.

Overview of Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book has been a staple in the wine community since its first publication in 1977. Each edition is meticulously updated to reflect current trends, new wineries, and emerging regions. The 33rd edition, published in 2010, continues this tradition, offering readers a compact yet comprehensive resource that is both informative and accessible.

Key Features of the 2010 Edition

The 2010 edition of Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book includes a variety of features that enhance its usability:

- **Concise Wine Reviews:** Each wine is reviewed with a focus on quality, flavor profile, and recommended pairings.
- **Regional Guides:** Detailed sections on major wine-producing regions, including France, Italy, Spain, and the New World, allowing readers to understand the unique characteristics of each area.
- **Producer Profiles:** Insightful information about renowned wineries and emerging producers, helping readers discover new favorites.
- **Wine Ratings:** A clear rating system that helps readers make informed purchasing decisions.
- **Practical Advice:** Tips on storing, serving, and tasting wine, making it suitable for both novices and seasoned enthusiasts.

The Importance of Wine Ratings

One of the standout features of Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 is its rating system. Ratings are critical in guiding consumers in their wine selections, and Johnson's evaluations are respected in the wine community.

Understanding the Rating System

The book employs a straightforward rating scale, typically ranging from 1 to 5 stars, with a brief explanation of the wine's merits. This allows readers to quickly assess the quality of a wine before making a purchase. The ratings are based on several criteria, including:

1. **Flavor:** The complexity and balance of flavors in the wine.
2. **Aroma:** The nose of the wine, which can hint at its quality before tasting.
3. **Finish:** The lingering taste after swallowing, which can indicate the wine's overall quality.
4. **Value:** The price point in relation to the quality offered.

Regional Highlights in the 2010 Edition

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 delves into various wine regions, each with its unique attributes. Understanding these regions is crucial for anyone looking to explore wine more deeply.

France: The Heart of Wine Production

France remains a benchmark for wine quality and diversity. The book covers various French regions, including:

- **Bordeaux:** Known for its rich red blends.
- **Burgundy:** Famous for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.
- **Champagne:** The only region that produces true sparkling wine.
- **Rhone Valley:** Renowned for its robust reds and aromatic whites.

Each section provides insights into the terroir, grape varieties, and notable producers in the region.

New World Wines: A Growing Trend

In addition to traditional regions, the 2010 edition emphasizes the emergence of New World wine regions, such as:

- **California:** Home to iconic regions like Napa Valley and Sonoma County.
- **Australia:** Known for Shiraz and Chardonnay from regions like Barossa Valley.
- **Chile and Argentina:** Emerging producers offering excellent value, particularly with Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon.

This focus on New World wines reflects the changing landscape of global wine production and the growing appreciation for wines outside of Europe.

Practical Wine-Tasting Tips

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 also provides readers with practical advice on how to taste wine effectively. Understanding the tasting process can enhance one's appreciation for the nuances of different wines.

The Wine Tasting Process

The book outlines a simple yet effective approach to tasting wine that includes:

1. **Observation:** Examine the color and clarity of the wine.
2. **Aroma:** Swirl the wine in the glass and take a deep sniff to capture its bouquet.
3. **Tasting:** Take a small sip, allowing the wine to coat the palate.
4. **Finish:** Pay attention to the aftertaste and how long the flavors linger.

These steps help readers appreciate the complexity of wines and enhance their overall tasting experience.

Conclusion

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010, 33rd edition, is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the world of wine. With its concise reviews, practical advice, and insightful regional information, this guide empowers readers to explore and enjoy wine with confidence. Whether you are a novice looking to learn the basics or a seasoned connoisseur seeking to refine your palate, this book provides the knowledge necessary to navigate the vast and varied landscape of wine. As the wine world continues to evolve, this edition remains a trusted companion for all wine lovers.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key features of Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010, 33rd edition?

The 2010 edition includes updated wine ratings, a comprehensive guide to wine regions, tasting notes for thousands of wines, and advice on food pairing, making it a valuable resource for both novice and experienced wine enthusiasts.

How does Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 compare to previous editions?

The 33rd edition continues the tradition of providing concise and up-to-date information, with more detailed regional coverage and a greater focus on sustainable wine practices compared to earlier editions.

Is Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 suitable for beginners?

Yes, the book is written in an accessible style, making it suitable for beginners, while still offering in-depth information that can benefit more knowledgeable wine drinkers.

What updates were made in the 2010 edition regarding wine regions?

The 2010 edition features updated information on emerging wine regions, detailed maps, and insights into the evolving global wine landscape, reflecting trends and changes in the industry.

Can I find tasting notes for specific wines in Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010?

Yes, the book includes tasting notes for a wide variety of wines, allowing readers to understand flavor profiles and characteristics of specific bottles.

Is Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2010 recommended for professional use?

While primarily aimed at consumers, many wine professionals also find the book useful for its concise information and easy reference, making it a handy tool in both casual and professional settings.

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