

KYM ANDERSON and SIGNE NELGEN: *Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where? A Global Empirical Picture* (revised edition). University of Adelaide Press, Adelaide, 2020, 800 pp., ISBN 978-1-925261-86-8, free eBook downloadable from <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/press/titles/winegrapes>; \$75 (paperback).

I wish we had *Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where?* on hand when Jancis Robinson MW, Julia Harding MW, and I published the reference book *Wine Grapes* (Robinson, Harding, and Vouillamoz, 2012). It would have saved us from cross-checking multiple sources and from contacting each and every country in order to obtain updated information on the bearing areas for each of the 1,368 grape varieties in our book. One year after our publication, Kym Anderson and Nanda R. Aryal opportunely provided comprehensive statistics on the wine grape varieties of the world in the first edition of *Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where?* We subsequently exchanged a lot of information among authors, and Kym most affectuously “acronymized” our book RHV, based on our initials.

For the revised edition of *Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where?*, Kym Anderson and Signe Nelgen have done a tremendous amount of additional research to put together statistical data for 1,705 varieties from 53 countries. In a constantly changing wine world, it is fascinating to compare data from 2000, 2010, and 2016, illustrating the evolution of what is called “encépagement” in French, which can be somehow translated into “vine populations.”

As a strong advocate for “vinodiversity,” I am fascinated to delve into the Varietal Intensity Indexes that indicate the importance of a variety in a region compared with the rest of the world. I am pleased to see that these indexes have the advantage of highlighting obscure indigenous or limited new PIWI grape varieties. On the opposite, the revised edition offers new features like indexes of internationalization of varieties, showing how many non-native varieties are cultivated in each region.

Climate change has become a hot topic—I am thrilled to see in the revised edition the addition of key climate indicators for each region, thus making it quite useful to know which grape varieties can be grown in a cool, temperate, warm, or hot climate.

The revised edition of *Which Winegrape Varieties are Grown Where?* is an almost infinite source of fascinating data on the past, present, and future of the wine world from a statistical point of view. And, the icing on the cake, believe it or not, it is free!

Congratulations to Kym and Signe for this groundbreaking compendium!

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Reference

Robinson, J., Harding, J., and Vouillamoz, J. (2012). *Wine Grapes: A Complete Guide to 1,368 Vine Varieties, Including Their Origins and Flavours*. London: Penguin.

JAMIE GOODE: *The Goode Guide to Wine: A Manifesto of Sorts*. University of California Press, Oakland, California, 2020, 248 pp., ISBN: 978-0520342460 (hardback), \$18.95.

Think of Goode's fifth book as an assortment of short one-sided conversations on various wine-related topics. As such, this small volume, measuring 4 by 6 inches (10 by 15 cms) and containing fewer than 50,000 words, is a radical departure from his four previous books, and therein lies the challenge for those accustomed to the good doctor's more focused and structured writing. His intended audience is "a broad spectrum of readers, including interested consumers and those in the wine trade" (p. xi). He states that the first half is for the wine drinker and the rest is for the industry. But it is not until the last paragraph that Goode presents his reason for this free-flowing offering: "It's enough to say that wine is worthwhile, complex, and repays attention. It is special. We need to cling to the cultural richness that has its origin in a time and place, and celebrate this fabulous gift. That's why I wrote this book" (p. 228).

By virtue of his decades as a "wine communicator," as he prefers to be called, Goode has gained gravitas and earned the right to share his perspectives. The guide is "an attempt to gather together some of my thoughts about wine, in a series of short, targeted chapters" (p. ix) he explains in the Preface. "My approach to wine is a bit different, and I think it is unique... I was trained as a scientist, but I'm an artist at heart" (p. x), he emphasizes. Unlike the more left-brained *I Taste Red* and *Flawless*, which are important contributions to our understanding of neuro-enology and wine faults, respectively, this collection of musings emanates mostly from his right-hemisphere. The tone is frequently more emotional than educational, although there is at least one instance when he lets loose with technical terminology. Following the Preface are 55 2- to 9-page chapters in no obvious order or interconnection with titles like "Some wines are just wine," "Framing: how words can get in the way," and "Beer is better than wine." A three-page, two-column index is included.

Goode accepts the fact that his views on wine may not be widely held. "I don't expect everyone to agree" (p. xi), he acknowledges. Indeed, it did not take long for me to take issue. Chapter 1, "The heart of authenticity," contains the assertion "...there is something unique about wine in that it is a product of a particular time and place..." (p. 1). While I certainly regard wine as a distinctive beverage, it is not for the reason Goode states. These days, coffee, tea, whiskies, and even cannabis are sourced from specially designed sites and can be vintage-dated. Wine's uniqueness stems from much more than the elusive notion of *terroir* that Goode