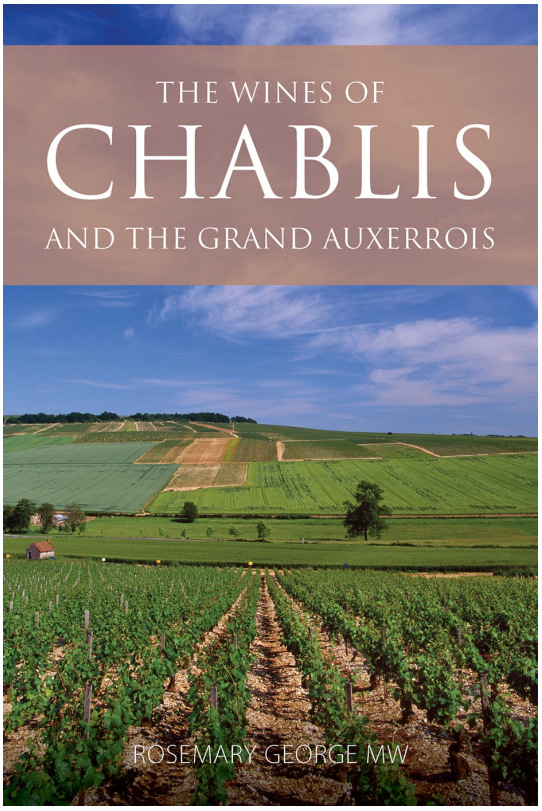
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The Wines of Chablis and the Grand Auxerrois

Rosemary George

ISBN	9781913141677
Publisher	Academie du Vin Library
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Australia
Size	234 mm x 156 mm
Pages	350 Pages
Illustrations	15 color, 3 b&w
Name of series	The Classic Wine Library
Price	£35.00

- Most authoritative, up-to-date and comprehensive guide to the wines of Chablis
- Author is a well-known expert on French wine, and is a Chevalier de l'Ordre de Mérite Agricole, awarded for her outstanding contribution to French agriculture
- Rosemary George is a former Chairman and now a Vice-President of the Circle of Wine Writers

Chablis has a distinct identity amongst the wines of Burgundy. The gently sloping vineyards of this small, scenic region produce a remarkably diverse range of wines, even though all are made from just one variety – Chardonnay.

As in other parts of France, it was the Romans who introduced vines and the medieval Church which expanded the vineyard. By the twelfth century the wines of Chablis, were already being celebrated in poetry. However, over the centuries a considerable amount of everyday wine also found its way via the river Yonne to the cafés of Paris. In its heyday of production towards the end of the nineteenth century the region encompassed 40,000 hectares of vines. But that was before phylloxera and oidium ravaged the vineyards and the railways brought competition from further south to the capital's wine drinkers.

From a low point of 500 hectares just after the Second World War, the vineyard has now expanded more than tenfold, and quality has increased too. Wines in the appellation's four categories – *grand cru, premier cru*, Chablis and Petit Chablis – are created by vignerons keen to work with the terroir to produce the elegant, mineral, long-lived wines for which the region earned its reputation. To this end, ever greater care is being taken in the vineyards and the routine use of chemicals is becoming increasingly uncommon.

The region's history, unique soil, geography and climate are all covered in detail, but it is Rosemary George's lively and insightful profiles of those who make the region's wines that form the body of ***The wines of Chablis and the Grand Auxerrois***. Through the lives of these vignerons – from the lows of disastrous weather to their love of the land – she paints a unique picture of a much-admired region.

Rosemary George spent nine years in the wine trade with The Wine Society, Louis Eschenauer (Bordeaux), H Sichel & Sons, Findlater Matta and Les Amis du Vin. In 1979 she became one of the first women to qualify as a Master of Wine. A freelance writer since 1981, she has written thirteen books, covering the Languedoc, Chablis, Tuscany and New Zealand. She is a contributor to various magazines including *Decanter* and *Sommelier India*.


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FROM SAINT MARTIN DE TOURS TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY





Published 6th Feb 2024