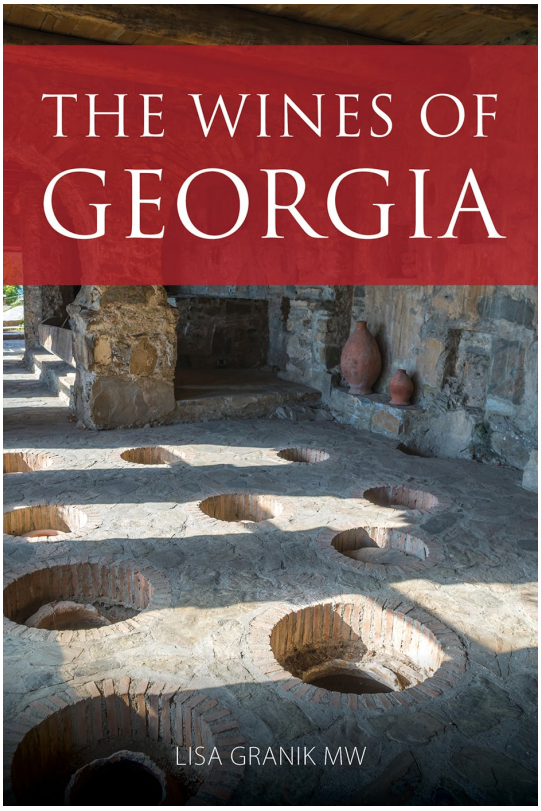
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Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



The Wines of Georgia

Lisa Granik

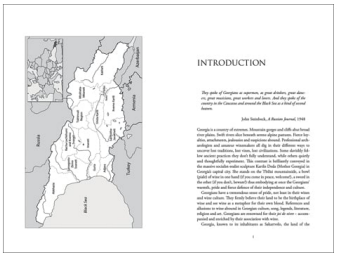
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Illustrations	16 color, 26 b&w
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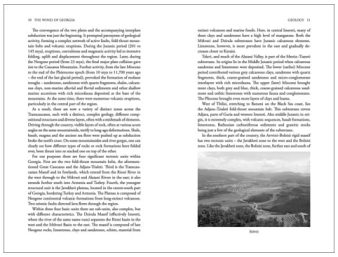
- Georgia has a fascinating wine background, claiming to be the birthplace of wine
- The historic Georgian *qvevri* method has seen a rise in popularity due to the currently fashionable natural winemaking movement
- Georgia's rich culture puts wine at its centre and wine is uniquely important to its people
- Lisa Granik is a Master of Wine with long connections with the country, making her ideally placed to comment on its wines

Georgia has for the last 25 years been resurrecting its unique winemaking tradition and rediscovering the distinctiveness of its native varieties. A handful of producers in 1997 has now exploded to more than 1,300. Wine is arguably more important to Georgia than to any other country and its people firmly believe their country to be the birthplace of wine. Yet Georgian wines are still largely unknown in the West.

Lisa Granik, who began visiting Georgia 30 years ago, starts ***The Wines of Georgia*** with a brisk tour through the history of the country and analysis of its complex geology, before moving on to consider Georgian wine culture. She explains not only winemaking methods and viticulture but also the centrality of wine to Georgian culture. Georgia can claim more than 400 native *Vitis vinifera* varieties; here Granik profiles the most commonly planted grapes, as well as the many 'lost' varieties being revived. The second half of the book details each of the major regions. Of Georgia's 20 PDOs, 15 are in the east, in Kakheti. With a history of wine education dating back 900 years, this prolific winemaking region is home to the *qvevri*, the conical clay vessel that for many represents Georgian winemaking. Stretching west, the regions become more sparsely populated; some places are still pioneer wine territory, with more amateur and self-taught winemakers. Granik provides details on the most significant producers, along with tips on sites of interest and places to eat and stay, for those visiting the country. This definitive book on Georgian wine is an essential text for anybody studying or making wine today.

Lisa Granik practised law in Washington DC and taught law at Georgetown University and then at Moscow State University and the Institute of State and Law (Tbilisi, Georgia). Following various positions in wine importing and distribution, in 2010 she established Tastingworks, a professional strategic management consultancy for wineries keen to establish or improve their penetration in the US market. She has been a member of the Council of the IMW since 2015.


INTRODUCTION




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HISTORY: A ROMP THROUGH 8,000 YEARS
PREHISTORY

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