



# Wine

## A Social and Cultural History of the Drink that Changed our Lives

Rod Phillips

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- Thematically organised social history of wine, takes a unique perspective
- Each chapter is a compact history of wine in its own right, enabling readers to consume chapters as self-contained units
- Author is well-known scholar of wine history and an expert in wine, with other titles including *Alcohol: A History* and *The wines of Canada*

**Wine: A Social and Cultural History of the Drink that Changed our Lives** is a wine history with a difference. Most histories of wine (like Hugh Johnson's *The Story of Wine*, Paul Lukacs's *Inventing Wine*, and Rod Phillips's own *A Short History of Wine*) are chronological narratives that begin with wine in the ancient world and run through to modern times. Wine has been seen typically as the subject of broader historical trends and events – how, for example, economic and diplomatic conditions favoured or interrupted the wine trade, and how changes in taste affected wine styles. **Wine** departs from these approaches by organising chapters by theme and by focusing much more on how wine has been positively and actively implicated in broad historical changes. It looks at the way wine has been used to demarcate social groups and genders, how wine has shaped facets of social life as diverse as medicine, religion, and military activity, how vineyards and wine cultures have transformed landscapes, and how successive innovations in wine packaging – from amphoras to barrels to bottles – have affected and been affected by commerce and consumption. **Wine** neither sees the history of wine as the passive result of historical forces nor sees wine as a prime agent of historical change. Rather, it views wine as a critical actor in key trends in the histories of society, culture, and the environment. Each chapter takes a single theme and the material within each is organised chronologically. The book is formed of chapters that together provide a compact and theme-specific history of wine in its own right, enabling readers to consume chapters as self-contained units, rather than as parts of a longer narrative whole. This is a fascinating reference resource for wine enthusiasts and historians alike.

**Rod Phillips** is a professor of history at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. He has written a number of books on European history, and, more recently, on the history of food and drink, with books including *A Short History of Wine*, *Alcohol: A History* (named a Book of the Year for 2014 on [jancisrobinson.com](http://jancisrobinson.com)), and *French Wine: A History*. General Editor of the forthcoming six-volume *A Cultural History of Alcohol*, he writes regularly for the wine media and also judges in wine competitions.

