



Wines of the Loire Valley

Beverley Blanning

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- A welcome addition to the Classic Wine Library's roster of books on French wine regions
- The Loire is a popular holiday destination and its wines are as big a draw for many as its châteaux
- Beverley Blanning is an award-winning Master of Wine and adept wine communicator and author

Wines of the Loire Valley provides an up-to-date guide to the wines of this historic region. The hallmark of Loire wines is their balance between succulent fruit and refreshing acidity but the Loire Valley encompasses a vast array of wines, not only the well-known and trusted names but many more little known, overlooked and undervalued. The complex patchwork of vineyards that extends more than 500 kilometres along France's longest river is a haven of discovery for wine lovers. The Loire's winemakers are at the forefront of the move towards a more natural approach to winegrowing, making it a preferred choice for anyone looking for organic, biodynamic and 'natural' wines. While higher-profile regions are struggling with rising temperatures and excessive alcohol levels, the cooler vineyards of the Loire are benefiting from warmer vintages. The first part of the book covers the Loire Valley's history and presents an overview of the region, the grape varieties used, the wine styles produced, and the viticulture and vinification of the Loire Valley. The second part profiles the main regions and the individuals shaping the vinous landscape of the Loire Valley today, from Muscadet on the Atlantic coast, through Pouilly-Fumé and Sancerre in Centre Loire, to Côtes d'Auvergne in the Upper Loire. A final chapter gives an overview of Loire vintages.

Beverley Blanning MW is an independent writer, judge, tour guide, speaker and educator. She is the author of *Teach Yourself Wine Tasting* and *Biodynamics in Wine* and has written for numerous publications globally. She became a Master of Wine in 2001 and won the Villa Maria and Errazuriz Awards for papers on viticulture and the business of wine.