



Claret and Cabs

The Story of Cabernet Sauvignon

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- Comprehensive worldwide survey
- Many illustrations with maps and photographs
- Guide to the leading producers from all regions

Cabernet Sauvignon is the world's most important black wine grape as both a varietal and a blend. The Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot and other varieties has become universal, but is now challenged by varietal wines from the New World. Going behind the scenes, this worldwide survey, liberally illustrated with maps and photographs, examines the changing nature of Cabernet Sauvignon and its blends. Should the wine be herbaceous or driven by black fruits? Should it be ready to drink on release or require aging? What is the true character of Cabernet Sauvignon? How do the top wines of Napa Valley differ from the First Growths of Bordeaux? Has Bordeaux lost its way in adopting a riper "international" style? How do its wines compare with Bordeaux blends from Coonawarra or Margaret River? Will global warming require the blend to be changed? Is Bordeaux still the essential reference point or has it been displaced by newer regions? Reviewing Cabernets from all over the world, *Claret & Cabs* includes profiles of leading producers with tasting notes from current and past vintages, and vintage assessments. Contents: Incestuous Relationships; European Classicism; The Bordeaux Blend; American Renaissance; The Pursuit of Ripeness; Mediterranean Blends; Southern Challenge; Antipodean Range; Cults and Icons; Vintage Chart; Producers & Tastings; Bibliography; Notes.