



# American Wino: A Tale of Reds, Whites, and One Man's Blues

By Dan Dunn



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**American Wino: A Tale of Reds, Whites, and One Man's Blues** By Dan Dunn

A professional booze writer whose life spins out of control tries to piece it back together by embarking upon an epic wine-fueled adventure that takes him to every corner of the U.S. Part vision quest, part guidebook, part journey into the bizarre tapestry of American life, it will make you laugh, make you cry and teach you a whole lot about wine.

Former *Playboy* magazine nightlife columnist Dan Dunn has made a career out of drinking. Yet this man's man—a connoisseur of beer and whiskey—knew next to nothing about one of the major drinks enjoyed the world over: wine. When a fateful tasting experience coincided with a serious existential crisis, Dunn decided to hit the road on a journey of discovery. To quench his thirst for knowledge (and be able to throw down with the experts), he would educate himself about the industry glass by glass, from winery to winery, in nearly every region in the United States.

His bold 15,000-mile road trip took Dunn from Sonoma, California, to Pawley's Island, South Carolina, where he twirled, sniffed, and sipped glass after glass of a vast array of wines with vintners, savants, and celebrities, including Kurt Russell and "The Most Interesting Man in the World," Jonathan Goldsmith. Dunn's mission was to transform himself from a heartbroken schlub who barely knew the difference between Merlot and Meritage, into a confident connoisseur capable of wowing others simply by swirling some fermented grape juice around in his mouth and pronouncing it "troubling, yet brilliant."

In *American Wino*, Dunn shares it all—the good, the bad, the sublime. As his wine knowledge grows and becomes more complex, he shares it with the reader in the form of digestible, actionable nuggets in each chapter. It's like a wine-tasting course at your local community college extension program, only with more sex and less crushing despair. An intoxicating blend of travel writing, memoir, and booze journalism that pairs earthy humor with fine wine for hilarious and enlightening results, it is the story of one man's journey to find himself—and everyman's journey to better understand the true spirit of this divine elixir.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Dunn's raw, rich comedic style in *American Wino* is lost in today's memoirs. Everybody else is so serious! Dunn keeps you laughing from page to page, with the occasional saucy tale and self-deprecation woven into wine terroir and grape knowledge." (Fred Minnick, *Parade*)

"But this is only partly a book about wine: it is a wine soaked road trip memoir painting Dunn's battle with personal demons on an educational wine canvas. These include the death of his brother, death of his dog, the unwanted end of the most serious relationship of his lifetime and the loss of true love, and the culmination of decades of family dysfunction and insecurity. This is a very personal book about life, loss, and personal transformation, juxtaposed with a very significant wine plot." (Larry Olmsted, *Forbes*)

"Dan Dunn has found a way of one-upping your wildest dreams. While many of us squares only daydream about ditching work to take a carefree roadtrip across America, Dunn did just that." (Javier Cabral, *Vice.com*)

"Dunn's cynical and sarcastic Philly bro voice stays in tact amid the soul-searching and creates some hard-earned pathos. In the end, Dunn is good company, and his *American Wino* is a winning memoir of a man humbled by catastrophe." (Andrew Travers, *The Aspen Times*)

"*American Wino* more or less proves that John Steinbeck was right in *Travels With Charlie*: You think you're taking the trip, but the trip takes you." (Curtis Robinson, *The Portland Phoenix*)

This memoir will definitely make you laugh, and by the end you'll know a whole lot more about wine, to boot. (Bon Appétit)

[A] glorious book. (Vice)

*American Wino* chronicles the funniest (and craziest) wine road trip since *Sideways*. (Food & Wine)

*American Wino* is a surprisingly (trust me) emotional romp that's only partly Intro To Wine 101 and partly ... well, a very special noir...[it] more or less proves that John Steinbeck was right...You think you're taking the trip, but the trip takes you. (The Portland Phoenix)

Dunn is good company, and his "American Wino" is a winning memoir of a man humbled (a little) by catastrophe. (Aspen Times)

"If you want to learn about wine, this will do. If you want to learn about heartbreak and beauty, this will do better." (Joel Stein, *Time Magazine*)

"I can think of no American more uniquely qualified nor eminently eager to guzzle free booze while living out of his car than Dan Dunn. This is debauchery of the finest kind. Hunter S. Thompson would be proud. And possibly a bit jealous." (Aisha Tyler, author of *Self-Inflicted Wounds: Heartwarming Tales of Epic Humiliation*)

"Dan Dunn crisscrosses this great land, stopping just long enough to cop a buzz. If you're a hobo, or just

know a hobo who loves to read, this book is for you.” (Adam Carolla, author of *Daddy, Stop Talking!* and *President Me*)

“Dunn has done it again. Drinking, geography, biochemistry, rampant Tindering and even more drinking. This is the ultimate oenophile’s handbook, but purists beware - there’s headaches and heartaches ahead.” (John Oates, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer)

“Nobody punishes his liver or his penis as consistently and with such commitment as Dan Dunn. I’ve seen it firsthand. The liver, that is, not the genitals. Ok, I’ve seen both. Join me in praying for Dan’s liver and his penis. And in reading this hilarious and heartfelt book.” (Nick Swardson, actor and comedian)

“Dan Dunn is driving, and this trip through America’s vineyards is a ride you want to join! Dan’s got a little bit of crazy in him. His book has a lot of crazy in it. Plus, the dude’s a great writer.” (Neil Everett, ESPN's SportsCenter)

“[AMERICAN WINO] is a captivating read. Dan is a master at dragging you along for this rocky and beautiful journey.” (Maynard James Keenan, Tool)

“It’s hard out there for a pimp. But Dan Dunn is a Superpimp, and there ain’t no stopping a Superpimp!” (DJ Paul, Academy Award winning founding member of Three 6 Mafia)

“Can you discover a little about yourself as Dan Dunn discovers more about himself and also wine? Yes. I say just read [AMERICAN WINO]. It’s funny, poignant and certainly more gooder than anything I ever wrote.” (Glenn Howerton, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*)

“I know what to eat. What I’ve been missing is a guy who knows what to drink. Thank God for Dan Dunn!” (Phil Rosenthal, host of *I'll Have What Phil's Having*)

“*American Wino* is just about the best road trip I’ve ever been on.” (Maximillian Potter, author of *Shadows in the Vineyard: The True Story of the Plot to Poison the World's Greatest Wine*)

“*American Wino* is for anyone who enjoys good storytelling, travel and reading with a smile on their face. It’s Dunn’s best book yet!” (chef and author of *Good Food, Good Life*)

“I have raised a glass or two with Dan Dunn and now I am raising one in his honor. [*American Wino*] is hilarious, genuine and full of wine, just like its author.” (Allison Janney, Emmy Award winning actress, star of CBS's *Mom*)

From the Back Cover

I understood now that I was just like America--loud, without pedigree, misinformed and often drunk. But I had grit. Gumption. A willful ignorance of my limitations. And if my email inbox was to be believed (and it is, just ask my good friend the Crown Prince of Nigeria), wine was being made in every state of the union, including Vermont, Georgia, Nebraska and Missouri. I even got a come-on from a winery in Arkansas that featured an on-site RV park. That was the final straw. I had to go drink the wine made in places you would never think made wine. I needed to know if Yankee obstinacy, Midwestern stick-to-itiveness or Deep South Zen had produced juice that could compete with the big mean mothers out in Napa and Sonoma. I would drink my way across America. For science. Or something. It was time to stop living in the shadow of lost limbs, ex-girlfriends and dead brothers and hurtle, screaming into the sunlight. I would combine my ignorance and sadness into a massive Big Gulp of despair, then pour it out my car's window across America's

highways as I plundered its precious purple bounty. This would not be a tale of a man drinking himself to death. This would be a tale of a man drinking himself to life. Hopefully.

#### About the Author

Dan Dunn has been, at varying times, a hardscrabble Philly kid, a member of Hunter S. Thompson's entourage, a newspaper and magazine columnist, a television comedy writer, a nightlife correspondent for *Playboy*, and the author of several cleverly titled books.

Widely recognized as one of the world's leading experts in adult beverages, he hosted *Dan Dunn's Happy Hour*, a weekly national radio show on SiriusXM that featured luminaries from the world of wine, beer and spirits along with pop culture icons such as Ray Romano, Hall & Oates, Kurt Russell, Olivia Wilde, and the Most Interesting Man in the World. He's appeared on *Conan*, *The Adam Carolla Show*, *The Henry Rollins Show* and numerous other fancy media-type programs.

For years, Dan penned the popular "Imbiber" column for *Playboy*, and is still a contributor to the magazine. He co-wrote (along with Rob McElhenney of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*) the half-hour comedy pilot *Living Loaded*, which is based on Dan's book *Living Loaded: Tales of Sex, Salvation and the Pursuit of the Never-Ending Happy Hour* (Random House, 2011). The pilot, produced by FX for Fox, starred Donald Sutherland, Mike Vogel and Larry Wilmore. Dan also authored the books *Nobody Likes a Quitter... and other reasons to avoid rehab* (Running Press, 2007) and *The Gang Writes a Self-Help Book: The Seven Secrets of Awakening the Highly Effective Four Hour Giant*, *TODAY* (HarperCollins, January 2015). His forthcoming book, *American Wino: A Tale of Reds, Whites and One Man's Blues* (HarperCollins) will be released in April 2016.

He is a former staff writer for the Emmy-nominated TV series *Talk Soup*. His work has appeared in *GQ*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *USA Today*, *Maxim*, *LA Weekly*, *Newsday*, *Los Angeles Magazine* and the *LA Times*.

He lives in Venice, CA.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Matthew Segal:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is reading a book. What about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, individual feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will require this American Wino: A Tale of Reds, Whites, and One Man's Blues.

#### Katrina Scofield:

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reserve that similar with American Wino: A Tale of Reds, Whites, and One Man's Blues. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your means home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of American Wino: A Tale of Reds, Whites, and One Man's Blues in e-book can be your substitute.

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**Maria Simmons:**

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