



Kevin Zraly Windows on the World Complete Wine Course: 30th Anniversary Edition

By Kevin Zraly



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"Kevin Zraly is the finest wine educator I have known." —Robert Parker

No one matches Kevin Zraly for teaching the novice or giving experts the most current information about wine. Now, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Zraly's definitive work, the world's bestselling guide to wine receives a complete update. As always, Zraly deftly takes the mystery out of wine, recommending hundreds of new wines (all under \$30!) and providing the latest information on vintage wines. But this thoroughly redesigned edition also presents a beautiful tribute to the renowned restaurant, Windows on the World, where Zraly's course began in 1976 and continued until September 11, 2001. Thanks to user-friendly smartphone tags throughout, there are videos to enlighten key points and audio guides to help you correctly pronounce 1,300 wine names and terms.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Quick, what's the correct way to open a wine bottle? Bonus round: what are the 13 grape types permitted in Chateauneuf-du-Pape?

Whatever your score on the above, you're bound to enjoy the *Windows on the World Complete Wine Course*. Subtitled *Millennium Edition*, this 14th annual update is again authored by Kevin Zraly, founder and teacher of the Wine School, begun in 1976 as an offshoot of New York's Windows on the World restaurant. On 200 colorful and clutter-free pages full of maps, wine labels, and sidebars full of facts and anecdotes, Zraly acts as your Sherpa through eight classes. Chapters 1 through 3 circumnavigate the white wines of France, the New World, and Germany; 4 through 8 explore the reds of France, California, Iberia, Australia, and South America, concluding with a section on champagne, port, and sherry.

As wine guru, Kevin Zraly is opinionated, knowledgeable, and patient. His skill at talking novice wine devotees off the ledge is especially evident in the chapters on Burgundy and Germany, with their notoriously confusing wine labels. Study Zraly's careful parsing and annotation of a German label and you'll be able to tell the region from the town from the vineyard the next time someone hands you a Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese.

But any book that calls itself a "Complete Wine Course" sets the Barbera pretty high--sometimes too high. Oregon and Washington States share one page while New York State rates two and a half. Certainly a millennium edition could scare up another paragraph for the red-hot Pacific Northwest. And two chapters following the classes--"Creating an Exemplary Restaurant Wine List" and "Award-Winning Wine Lists"--seem little more than padding.

But these are small quibbles about a handsome and approachable volume that will take you from Amarone to Zind-Humbrecht with confidence. Whether you're a true cork dork or someone who doesn't know their Alsace from their elbow, you could certainly do worse than pressing your nose up against these windows on the world. --*Tony Mason*

From Publishers Weekly

The silver anniversary version of this perennial bestseller by legendary wine personality Zraly still emphasizes consumer enjoyment and user friendliness in the pursuit of education and appreciation. The DIY edition of his now-legendary class tackles the wide world of vini- and viticulture with a sense of humor, erudition and modesty, and includes expanded material on wine regions beyond France, Italy and California. The 25-year benchmark provides frequent opportunity to look back over changes in grape growing and winemaking over the past quarter century. While the book's frequently busy layout may reflect changes in traditional media and information acquisition—large sections are laid out like FAQs—it allows room for a broad range of information without oversaturation. Tasting work sheets and self-administered questionnaires are included, while sidebars include lighter material, such as wine-related quotes and other assorted trivia. Among the handy visuals are wine-growing maps and wine labels included not merely for aesthetic appreciation but for useful comparisons in areas with complicated classifications like Burgundy. Appropriate for professional and layperson alike, the volume continues to be one of the most indispensable titles of its kind. (*Oct.*)

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From Library Journal

Zrally, founder and teacher of the Windows on the World Wine School, presents the 14th update of his popular guide to the world of wine. Originally published in 1985, Zrally's book was designed for students, which is reflected in the treatment of each chapter as a class: "white wines of France," "red wines of California," and so on. A loose question-and-answer format prevails, and Zrally also provides a generous sprinkling of entertaining sidebars and informational tidbits. Even collections with Philip Seldon's *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Wine* (Alpha, 1996) or Ed McCarthy and Mary Ewing-Mulligan's *Wine for Dummies* (IDG, 1998) should consider Zrally's book. Each of these titles has its own strengths. Zrally offers more detail on Chilean and Argentinean wines, while the other two titles offer information on Portuguese wines not found in Zrally's book. For the restaurant owner or wine steward, Zrally also offers information on creating a wine list. Recommended for medium and large public libraries or any academic library where culinary arts titles are collected. A John Charles, Scottsdale P.L., AZ
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Users Review

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