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The Wet and the Dry: A Drinker's Journey

By Lawrence Osborne



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The Wet and the Dry: A Drinker's Journey By Lawrence Osborne

Selected as a Top Ten Book of the Year by Dwight Garner, *New York Times*

A “fearlessly honest account” (*Financial Times*) of man’s love of drink, and an insightful meditation on the meaning of alcohol consumption across cultures worldwide

Drinking alcohol: a beloved tradition, a dangerous addiction, even “a sickness of the soul” (as once described by a group of young Muslim men in Bali). In his wide-ranging travels, Lawrence Osborne—a veritable connoisseur himself—has witnessed opposing views of alcohol across cultures worldwide, compelling him to wonder: is drinking alcohol a sign of civilization and sanity, or the very reverse? Where do societies fall on the spectrum between indulgence and restraint?

An immersing, controversial, and often irreverent travel narrative, *The Wet and the Dry* offers provocative, sometimes unsettling insights into the deeply embedded conflicts between East and West, and the surprising influence of drinking on the contemporary world today.



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Editorial Review

Review

A NEW YORK TIMES 2013 TOP TEN BOOK OF THE YEAR

“Instantly among the best nonfiction volumes about drinking that we have...Mr. Osborne comes across in *The Wet and the Dry* as a real human being indeed—a complicated man mixing complicated feelings into fizzy, adult, intoxicating prose.”

—*New York Times*

“In this entertaining travel essay/memoir, [Osborne] combines both of his loves with a combination of sparkling prose and insightful observations...Endlessly fascinating.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Mr. Osborne is a superb travel writer, one who, like Evelyn Waugh, can size up a locale at almost a glance. This intoxicating book has political as well as sensual overtones. It’s about how East and West think about alcohol; quite often it’s about one man’s search for his 6:10 p.m. martini in some very unlikely locations.”

—**Dwight Garner, *New York Times***

“A bracing, brilliant meditation on everything from the universal qualities that make a good bar to the mysteries of vodka...to the pagan worship of Dionysius, an influence still felt in the way we see wine... Relentlessly sharp-minded.” —*Boston Globe*

“Delightfully idiosyncratic.”—*LA Times*

“Entertaining...[Osborne] nimbly parses politics, religion, and the chaotic nature of history itself in relation to drink.” —*Men’s Journal*, a Best Books for Men 2013 selection

“Osborne is a master of the high style.” —*The Guardian* (UK)

“Captivating...Stylish and engaging.” —*Financial Times* (UK)

“Osborne elicits some profound and harrowing reflections...From Dubai to Beirut, Islamabad to Brooklyn, Osborne’s meditations on fermentation and distillation induce a host of refreshing, taut, timeless unmoorings.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A cosmopolitan and prodigious drinker conducts a tour to selected locales where alcohol flows easily and to others where such spirits are strictly forbidden...Rakish, rich and nicely served.” —*Kirkus*

About the Author

A celebrated novelist and journalist, **LAWRENCE OSBORNE** is the author of six travel narratives, and a novel, *The Forgiven*. His latest novel, *The Ballad of a Small Player* is out in April 2014. He has written for the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal Magazine*, the *New Yorker*, *Forbes*, *Harper's*, and several other publications. He lives in New York City and Bangkok.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucinda Smith:

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David Gilbert:

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