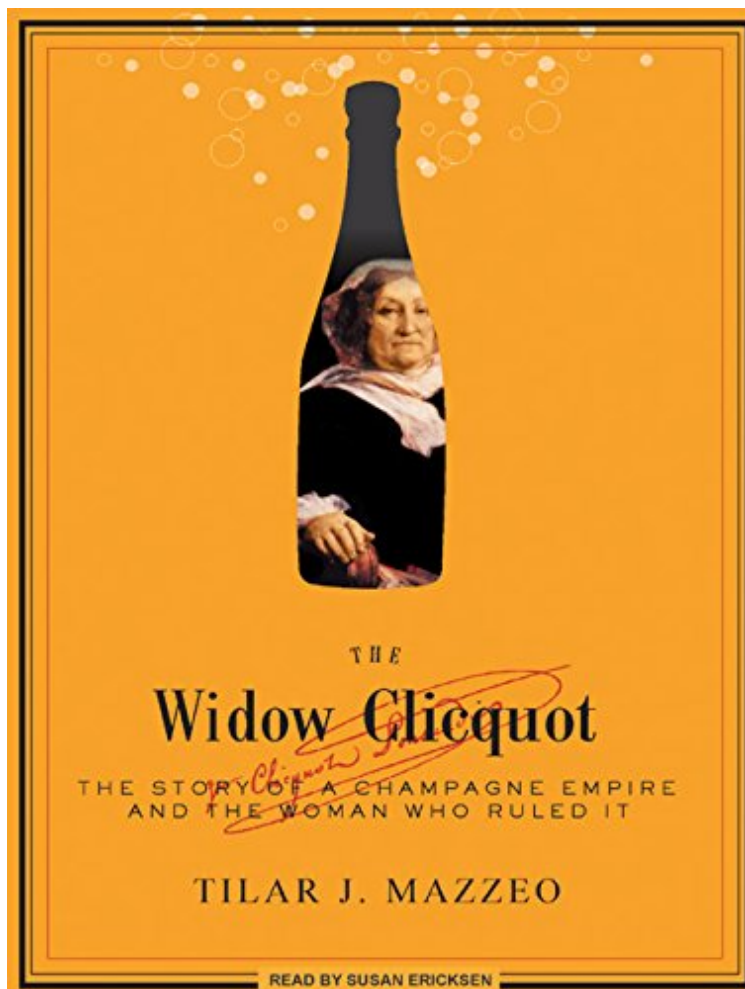


(Read download) The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It

The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It

Tilar J. Mazzeo

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Tilar J. Mazzeo : The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Champagne was MUCH sweeter than By Dave the Rave A must read for anyone that enjoys champagne. Not only does it tell the story of a woman struggling to run a business in a time of war when women were often treated like chattel. My favorite vignette was about when after trying to ship her champagne west and then east during the Napoleonic Wars her efforts to hide her wine behind walls when the Russian Calvary arrived at her chateau shouting for more champagne before they rode off to battle. A good read. 6 of 6 people

found the following review helpful. Interesting, butBy ShazartistThis was selected for a book group read and we even had the gorgeous wine over lunch. I really enjoyed reading the History of this Champaign and of Champaign in general, and it had lots of great little tit bits and was generally an easy book to read and It was well written. I did expect a bit more information about the Widow as she was the title, I love books about interesting women, obviously there was little real information available about her. I felt the book was interesting and informative but was not great, especially if you considered you were reading a biography. I liked it and would give it a 3.5 if I could.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy BondgirlFascinating chronicle of the life of the Widow Clicquot, who ran the family champagne business after her husband died. This was unheard of a few hundred years ago! I learned a great deal about the making of champagne, plus the strength of the brand. Enjoyed a bottle of the Widow after I finished the book, excellent combination.

Veuve Clicquot champagne epitomizes glamour, style, and luxury. But who was this young widow-the Veuve Clicquot-whose champagne sparkled at the courts of France, Britain, and Russia, and how did she rise to celebrity and fortune? In *The Widow Clicquot*, Tilar J. Mazzeo brings to life for the first time the fascinating woman behind the iconic yellow label: Barbe-Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin. A young witness to the dramatic events of the French Revolution and a new widow during the chaotic years of the Napoleonic Wars, Barbe-Nicole defied convention by assuming-after her husband's death-the reins of the fledgling wine business they had nurtured. Steering the company through dizzying political and financial reversals, she became one of the world's first great businesswomen and one of the richest women of her time. Although the Widow Clicquot is still a legend in her native France, her story has never been told in all its richness-until now. Painstakingly researched and elegantly written, *The Widow Clicquot* provides a glimpse into the life of a woman who arranged clandestine and perilous champagne deliveries to Russia one day and entertained Napoleon and Josephine Bonaparte on another. She was a daring and determined entrepreneur, a bold risk taker, and an audacious and intelligent woman who took control of her own destiny when fate left her on the brink of financial ruin. Her legacy lives on today, not simply through the famous product that still bears her name, but now through Mazzeo's finely crafted book. As much a fascinating journey through the process of making this temperamental wine as a biography of a uniquely tempered woman, *The Widow Clicquot* is utterly intoxicating.

.com Best of the Month, October 2008: With its trademark fizz and sparkling taste, champagne has long been the beverage of choice for those in a celebratory mood. From the artillery of popping corks on New Year's Eve to the clinking of newlywed glasses, a bit of the bubbly has locked arms with good cheer for centuries. Yet had it not been for the pioneering Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin, the libation deemed "the wine of civilization" by Winston Churchill might today be available only to the excessively wealthy or extremely lucky. Author Tilar J. Mazzeo toasts the eacute;lan of Champagne's Grand Dame with *The Widow Clicquot*, a fascinating story of the cunning bravery and good fortune that helped build the Veuve Clicquot brand. Widowed at age twenty-seven by the death of her husband Francce;ois Clicquot, Barbe-Nicole assumed control of her family's wine business amid the chaos of The Napoleonic Wars. That she became a prominent female leader in a male-dominated industry was one thing; building an empire amid savage political unrest was quite another. With passionate research and true admiration for her subject, Mazzeo pays homage to the beloved Widow from Reims and the remarkable weight her name still carries today. -Dave Callanan "Narrative history that fizzes with life and feeling." ---Benjamin Wallace, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Billionaire's Vinegar* Joan of Arc and Madame Clicquot were the two women heroes I knew when growing up in France. What a gift to have this new, well-researched biography of one of the world's first 'legitimate' businesswoman, our contemporary as a global business leader."Told in a light and graceful style that is just right for its subject.... [I]t's a fascinating trip, made even more so by Ms. Mazzeo's charming cameo appearances as a kind of tour guide.... This example of Barbe-Nicole's voice is exceptional...an intoxicating business biography."