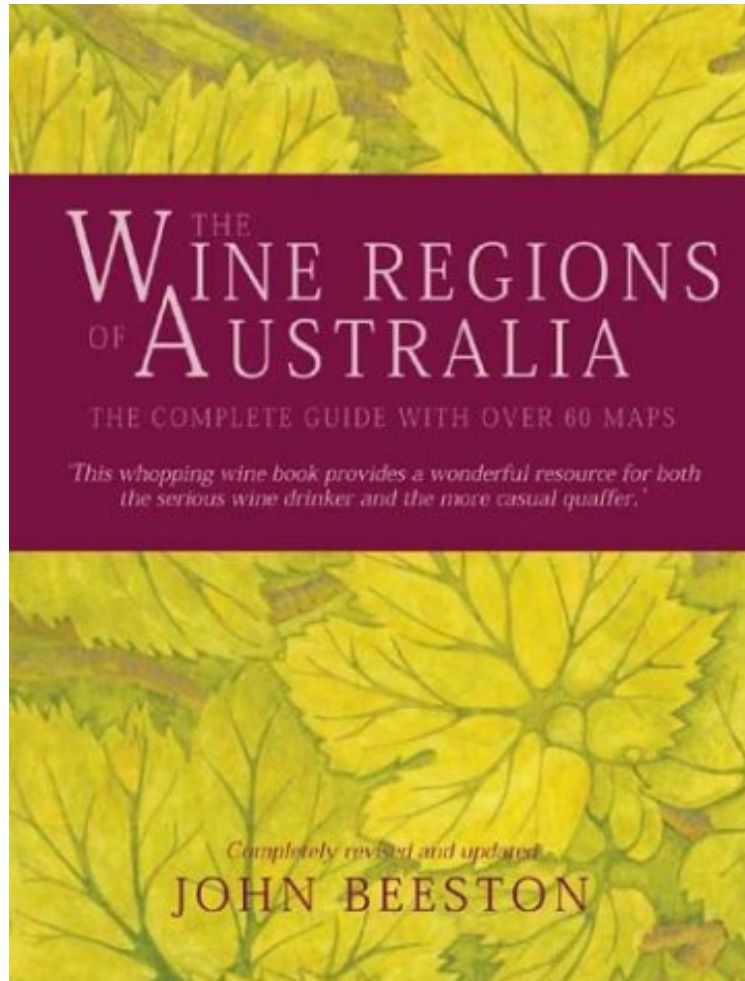


The Wine Regions of Australia: The Complete Guide

John Beeston

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John Beeston : The Wine Regions of Australia: The Complete Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wine Regions of Australia: The Complete Guide:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great reference book on Australian wine regions and wineries By Robyn Tinsley Finally - a comprehensive reference book on Australian wines! If I am not alone in my ever-growing appreciation for the excellent wines coming out of Australia recently, then I am certainly not alone in my desire for an easy to use encyclopedia of Australian wine information. John Beeston's latest is my answer. This book has already taken its place on my credenza, within easy reach when I need to find quick answers to questions about Australian geography as it applies to wine regions, maps to wineries, contact information for wineries, and much more. The "wine geography" of Australia is a vast array of very different climatic factors and grape growing profiles. Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland and Northern Territory are the major areas, but within each are dozens of zones and regions, along with numerous wineries. This book won't give you

reviews of specific wines - it's not that kind of book. That's actually a nice thing, in a way, as it spares you the pain of outdated bottle information. However, if you need some basic factual information on a winery, chances are good you can find it here. For each winery entry, Beeston includes address, telephone, owner, winemaker, year founded, geographical information, varieties planted, leading wines, and more. In other words, a great reference book. For each wine region, Beeston offers maps (more than 50 maps sprinkled throughout the book!) that include winery locations and are a super find for travelers. I am personally thrilled with the McLaren Vale Region map. Hardy's, d'Arenberg, and Rosemount, here I come!

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Great reference, but no help on selecting wines

By Lisa Shea

At 525 pages, this hardcover tome is an ultimate reference book on the wineries of Australia, complete with maps of regions and intimate details of each winery. Broken out by region, the book helps explore what makes a down-under wine truly unique. The introduction covers general winemaking knowledge - sunshine hours, necessary nutrients for vines, what various grapes need to grow, and so on. Once this general grounding is complete, the book goes on to begin to address the specifics of each wine region in Australia. Each region has a map showing the locations of sub regions. The region's history is reviewed, with notes about key individuals involved and landmark events. Humorous information, such as the fact that the Barossa Valley was originally named "Barrossa" and lost an R due to later misspellings, can serve for endless after-dinner discussion. In addition, the key grape varieties used in Australia are also reviewed. A page on Riesling compares how it grows in Geisenheim, Clare Valley, Edna Valley, and Mount Barker. The charts show how rainfall, humidity, sunshine hours, and even altitude vary, and explains how these differences affect the grapes. This is interesting reading for any wine drinker who likes to compare wines from different areas. The real meat of this book, however, is in its winery details. Each winery in Australia is listed by the region it is located in. The address, phone and FAX # are listed so you can easily contact them. In addition there are details on the area of the vineyards, the winemaker, year of foundation, soil types, grape types grown, and leading wines. If that's not enough for you, there are also notes on hours of operation, recent awards won, and relationships with other wineries. Wine lovers who are looking for ratings of vintage years, or of ratings of individual wines, will be disappointed. The book does not use stars or wine bottles or any other system to indicate which wineries are worthy of attention and which are not. In a way, this helps to extend the life of the book. Instead of having material which is out of date quickly, its generalistic approach to the wineries in Australia helps it supplement the slim tomes on "Wines of the '90s" which would have this sort of information. On the downside, the core of the book is rather dry. While the information on the regions and grapes themselves are quite interesting, the pages and pages of cookie-cutter information on the wineries can get tedious to go through. While the founding date of a winery wouldn't change, the other details do, such as the winemaker, owner, key wines produced, and so on. In addition, wineries are coming into being all the time, while other wineries shut down. I appreciate the book as a reference tome, and keep it on my shelf, but in the age of the Internet I can often find the address of a winery just as easily on the web. I would have greatly enjoyed it if the book also included reviews of the wines, and notes on the quality of vintages. Yes, this would mean the book would have to be reissued every 5 years or so, but I figure I'll have to buy a new version that frequently anyway, to keep up with the most recent information on the wineries listed.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a Cellar Review - Not a Regional Review

By Gary Borad

Wine Regions of Australia provides a well written cursory review of the wine regions of Australia but does little to paint a picture of each region itself. The maps are of poor quality (no terrain and no perspective on linkages to neighboring wine regions). Also, little discussion on what differences or similarities a particular region has from other regions in Australia or other parts of the world. You're left with a patchwork quilt of weak, high level and individualized views of each region in your mind. In the end you're left looking for more...much more than the book offers on wine regions. What the writer does do is devote significant time and text to providing cellar by cellar reviews for each region. For those that are seeking this type of guidance this book might be useful. However keep in mind wine cellars change their production - some quite often. Top wines, as anyone who drinks wine will tell you, change every year. So, providing me with cellar names, ratings, "tonnes" crushed every year, and top wines for each does little to assist me in understanding what I purchased the book for - to learn about the Wine Regions of Australia. In all a poor effort on wine regions. An adequate effort in providing a wine cellar report.

A revised and updated edition of the comprehensive guide to the geographical indications that now divide Australia's wine areas into zones, regions and sub-regions. This "geography" of wine has been written in response to the growing movement to classify Australian wine in more regional terms. In France it is terrain that determines a wine's uniqueness, but how do we define those factors that give Australian wines their "regional" qualities? Is it by soil, by climate, by topography, or simply by municipal boundaries? John Beeston introduces each of Australia's wine regions, their winemaking histories and the viticultural qualities that make each place unique. He also provides a comprehensive listing of vineyards and wineries in each region with descriptions of soils, climate and location together with notes on grape varieties planted, grape cultivation techniques, harvesting times and leading wines. As a wine taster, John Beeston also gives his personal rating of many of the vineyards listed. Encyclopaedic in its scope, the book should help readers understand the unique qualities of Australian wines and discover the country's many

vineyards, both large and small.

"An excellent reference to the everndash;growing world of Australian wine." -- Wine Spirits
About the Author: John Beeston is one of Australia's most experienced wine writers and a true wine expert. He has a regular wine column in Australian Business Monthly and Gourmet Traveller, and pops up regularly on tasting panels and his Concise History of Australian Wine has become a classic in its field. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the Australian wine market sets him apart from other writers on the subject.