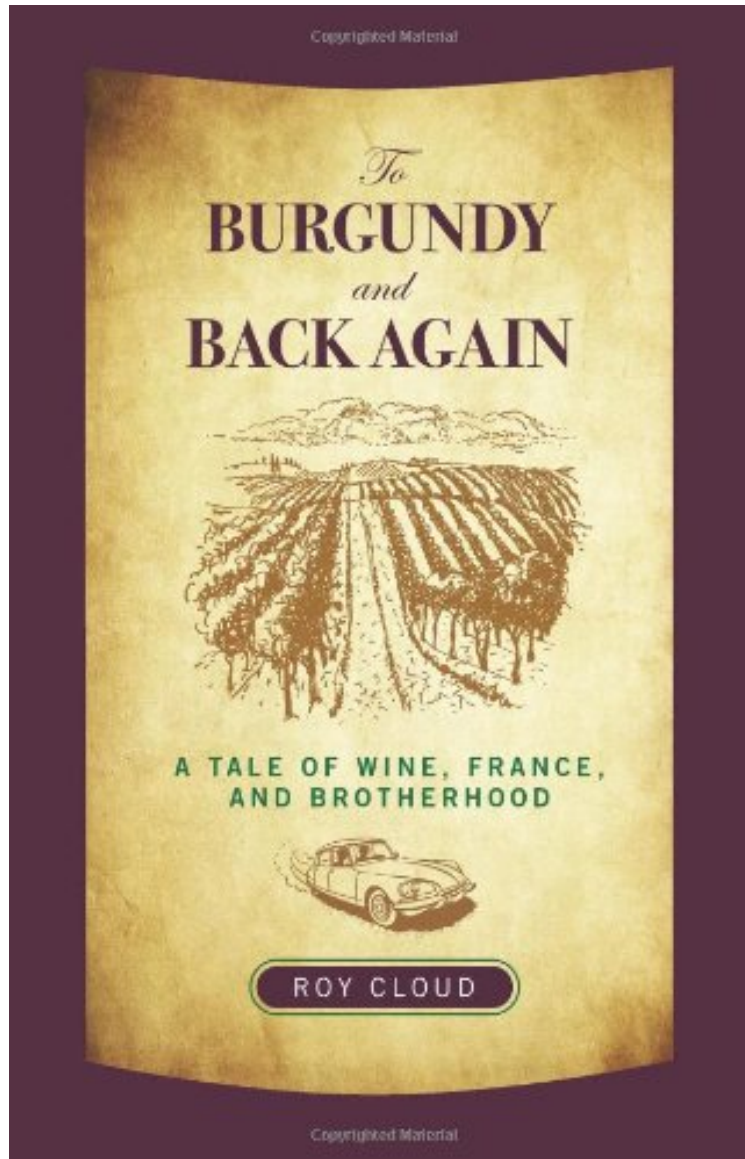


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To Burgundy and Back Again: A Tale Of Wine, France, And Brotherhood

Roy Cloud

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Roy Cloud : To Burgundy and Back Again: A Tale Of Wine, France, And Brotherhood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Burgundy and Back Again: A Tale Of Wine, France, And Brotherhood:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Like a Wonderful Complex Delicious Glass of WineBy

SadieLady50Reading Roy Cloud's *To Burgundy and Back Again* is like drinking a complex, aromatic, tangy, crisp, luscious glass of wine, with a long after taste. The book takes you on his journey to find vigneron and gives you a multi-faceted dose of history, geology, family, viticulture, literature, cuisine, travel and economics. Roy sets out on his quest to identify and "sign up" a few exceptional artisanal vigneron - the French grower and wine maker, who own and work their own vineyards, that have been handed down through the generations. What is important to Roy must also be important for the vigneron, "le vin est toujours la vie." Wine is always life. Roy's experience, personality, family background, education and training have combined to make him a perfect match for this task. Not. He does not speak French; the timing of the trip was hasty and stressful; he lacks some of the most basic knowledge of French culture, and he's never even eaten a snail. But, perhaps because of those characteristics and a good bit of luck, Roy, and his brother, Joe, wind their way through French wine country making contacts with some exceptional wineries, who ultimately become his own suppliers for Vintage '59. His writing is honest with a strong voice and rich descriptions. He is insightful, funny, informative, but above all, fascinating. I was on this trip with them from the first page, following along, much like Roy describes being the places that Hemingway, Fitzgerald, MFK Fisher, Thomas Jefferson, even Julius Caesar journeyed before. Will I ever be able to taste a glass of wine without thinking if it could match this description? "It was the, whose perfume was too young to be haunting but not too old to be heavenly. The flavors were dazzlingly full, yet light, and lingered indelibly. There was a delicious silkiness in the texture of the wine that expanded with extraordinary flavor in my mouth.... It was, and it turned out that each wine was a study in site, or, to use a much bantered about word, terroir. Each was markedly different than the other despite being from vineyards a stone's throw away from one another in the same appellation." After reading his book, I would be thrilled to sit down with Roy, and his wife, Helen, to a wonderful meal with great wine, and catch up on some more of his wonderful stories. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read this Book! By GamineOnce in awhile a book comes along that has all the right stuff, the full complement of all the elements of good literature. But then it also has that certain something; that can't put it down, read it into the morning hours, don't want it to end element. *To Burgundy and Back Again* is that book. Roy Cloud has done a masterful job of engrossing the reader in his warm relationship with his brother and tragically injured father, in the charm of travels in France including just the right amount of pertinent geography and well researched history, in his passion for artisanal French wine and fond regard for the growers who craft it, and in the art and science of bio dynamic wine production. This all too quick read leaves the reader with both a taste for more books from author Cloud, and desire to taste the very Vintage 59 selections he describes so vividly. Having succumbed to the lure of those descriptions more than a few times now, I can testify to their accuracy... Roy Cloud knows wine as well as writing. Also...the only response to Len's utterly mystifying criticism, encountered, ironically, when on line ordering extra copies of the book for friends is...Really? I cannot imagine that we could have read the same book. To each his own, but it would be a shame if a potential reader took that strange analysis to heart and missed this very charming memoir. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. The real deal By Chambolle For more than a decade now, I've been making my own annual pilgrimage to France for a few weeks of morning noon and night tasting, traipsing from one domaine to the other hour after hour, grabbing a quick bite on the road and rushing off for more swirling and spitting in search of new sources of wine for import to the US, or just to reconnect with well known growers and their wines. Roy Cloud has captured the manic essence of that experience with wit, charm and insightful discussion of some of the wines he's found and the winemakers he has met along the way. The book recounts Cloud's first trip to France to put together a portfolio of wines for his importer/employer, with his French-speaking brother along to act as interpreter - and as foil. Woven into the tale of his travels in Burgundy, the Loire and the Rhone is the story of Cloud's own family - a strong willed, independent father who is laid low by a terrible bicycling accident on his own trip to France; his brother's traumatic divorce and breakaway to a new life; his own formation of an independent wine importer called Vintage 59. I blasted through the book during my morning and afternoon commute, and thence into the evening - this is a book that's hard to put down until it's done. Unlike recent and disappointing disasters like Kathryn Borel's miserable, narcissistic and sophomorically artsy "Corked" - which has nothing at all to say about wine (or anything else of substance); or Neal Rosenthal's somewhat mean-spirited, self-congratulatory "Confessions of a Wine Merchant," this book conveys the exhilaration of traveling and tasting in France -- unencumbered by the scrivener's overweening ego and neuroses. It is unabashedly and honestly exactly what the subtitle says - "a tale of wine, France and brotherhood." The tale is told with a refreshing sense of wonder and excitement. One little quibble. I could be wrong, but I really do not think the traditional goat cheese of Chavignol is called "croustillon de Chavignol," as it is early in this book. "Crottin de Chavignol" is more like it. Where's that editor when you need one?

Roy Cloud had worked in the wine business for years, watching it transform from a retail backwater to a mainstream fixation, with a huge influx of consumers looking for wine with terroir. By a twist of fate, he found himself on a hurriedly arranged trip to France to persuade small-scale winemakers that he should represent their interests in the growing U.S. import market. While Roy's palate would be challenged in finding the hidden gems of the Loire and Burgundy, his real dilemma was this: He didn't speak a word of French. Enter Joe, Roy's older brother.

Different from Roy in every respect, Joe had studied in France and was fluent in the language—and, most importantly, he was free to join Roy in his search. It was simple: Roy would do the tasting, and Joe would do the talking. What could go wrong? In *To Burgundy and Back Again*, Roy presents a richly evocative account of their journey—one replete with discovery, adventure, and poignant surprises. Written in the tradition of *A Year in Provence* and *Sideways*, this elegantly penned book will delight wine lovers and armchair travelers alike.

Savvy oenophiles may recognize the author as the proprietor of Vintage '59, a local wine import shop specializing in the best of the French vigneron. This charming chronicle of his first foray to France as a buyer for a newly launched import business finds an eager and trepidatious Cloud with a few tricks up his sleeve: an excellent palate and sound connections, thanks to his time employed at MacArthur Liquors and his older brother, Joe, who was living in France. Did we mention that Roy didn't speak any French? That's just one of the challenges in store for those willing to follow the Cloud brothers around the French countryside over 12 days that would forever alter their lives." --Christopher Schoppa, *The Washington Post*