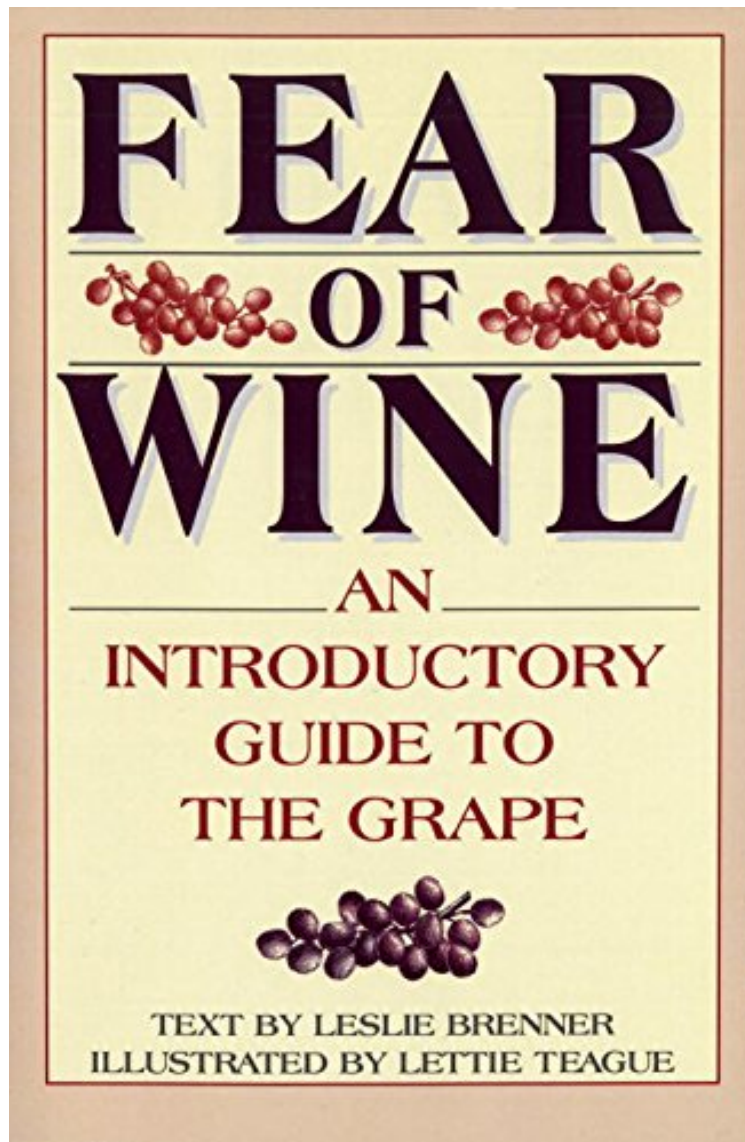


## Fear of Wine: An Introductory Guide to the Grape

*Leslie Brenner*

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**Leslie Brenner : Fear of Wine: An Introductory Guide to the Grape** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fear of Wine: An Introductory Guide to the Grape:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great for those who wish to learn and not get overwhelmed!By Nedim HetoThis is a wonderful book. It's accurate and EASY to READ. You will not get overwhelmed or confused while reading this material. The illustrations help a LOT. Best introductory wine book out there. A must buy for beginners!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nothing to fearBy bombshellI'm a wine person anyway,

but I've been separated for a year or so from my wine-loving family, and suddenly I'm going crazy to learn more about the divine juice I grew up with. I checked this book out from the library because it was the only wine book they had; I thought the title was silly and I didn't expect to get much out of it. Maybe I was starting to turn into a wine snob; this book is fun! The title refers to a cultural phenomenon: wine is chic now, so those "in the know" are revered by those who want to be, and the wannabes spend their time around wine worrying about how wine-smart they are instead of enjoying their wine. With this in mind, the book is devoted to teaching anyone who wants to know enough to feel comfortable making decisions about wine, tasting it in public, and enjoying the hell out of it. I'm not exactly a novice -- nor am I an expert -- and I learned a lot! Better: I really enjoyed the read. There are little cartoons every other page; they're silly, but they can be cute, too, and they serve as mnemonics for those of us who need a little help remembering all that info. There's only one thing "wrong" with FEAR OF WINE: it needs to be updated! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great fun to read and incredibly informative! By A Customer A friend recommended Fear of Wine to me, since he knew I had recently become interested in the subject. What he told me was true: the book manages to make learning about wine really fun. The author is an anti-snob, and I found her no-nonsense approach to be very appealing; and unlike with the Idiot's and Dummies books, I didn't feel I was being talked down to. (I'm not a moron, are you?) Although I thought the book was great all the way through, the sections on ordering wine in restaurants and buying wine for home were particularly strong. Also, as a person who was only familiar with California wines, and especially Chardonnay and Merlot, the book was terrific at untangling French, Italian, and other European wines, opening up a whole new world to me, and also introducing me to other American varieties. And it seems the book isn't only great for beginners--I gave it as a gift to a friend who actually knows quite a bit about wine, and she can't stop raving about it either!

In this friendly introductory guide, food and wine writer Leslie Brenner tells how to: Pour and taste wine Develop a taste memory Order from a wine list Select a wine at the store Match food with wine In addition, helpful sidebars illuminate such subjects as: How--and why--to swirl without sloshing Disarming a snotty waiter Ten great wines to bring to a dinner party Going beyond California Chardonnay Starting your own cellar for under \$100 Along the way, Lettie Teague's funny and informative cartoons enhance the text and make great devices for remembering the most important facts. Before long, your old standby, Chateau Screwtop, will be a distant memory. Accessible and concise, Fear of Wine will appeal to anyone who wants to know a little bit about a subject that can bring great pleasure. At last, a guide that is as fun to read as wine is to drink!

From Library Journal What sets this title apart is its tone. Brenner (*The Art of the Cocktail Party*, Dutton, 1994) and Teague understand that every wine connoisseur was once a beginner and never lecture to novices but guide them through the basics of knowledge and enjoyment of wine. There are, of course, discussions of winemaking, producer regions and countries, and the ordering and tasting of wine. Friendly advice is given on corkscrew selection and spotting an overpriced wine list, and main points are summarized at the end of each chapter. Throughout are cartoons, charts, and tables. Resource materials and organizations are suggested in the final chapter. Brenner takes a usually solemn subject and transforms it into an enjoyable crash course. Highly recommended. Wendy Miller, Lexington P.L., Ky. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist With a humorous tone and straightforward writing style, Brenner "aims to tell how you can learn to enjoy drinking wine." Novices can expect succinct explanations of many nuances related to tasting wine, decanting it, and deciphering restaurant wine lists. In general, Brenner clarifies the esoteric jargon associated with wine making and wine consumption by basically lifting away the mystique that seems to surround the topic of wine appreciation. And although accompanying cartoon illustrations emphasize important points, they also serve to further lighten the mood, thereby alleviating any hint of pomposity that might taint the topic. Brenner does suggest additional reading material and courses to take for those individuals interested in a more immersed approach. Alice Joyce From the Publisher For anyone who's ever been intimidated by a wine list, bullied by a wine snob, or overwhelmed at the wine store, finally there's a book for you. An alternative to all the hefty tomes on the bookshelf, Fear of Wine is the first refreshingly informal, simple guide to the grape. So take a deep breath, turn to page one, and just keep telling yourself, "It's only a beverage, it's only a beverage, it's only a beverage...."