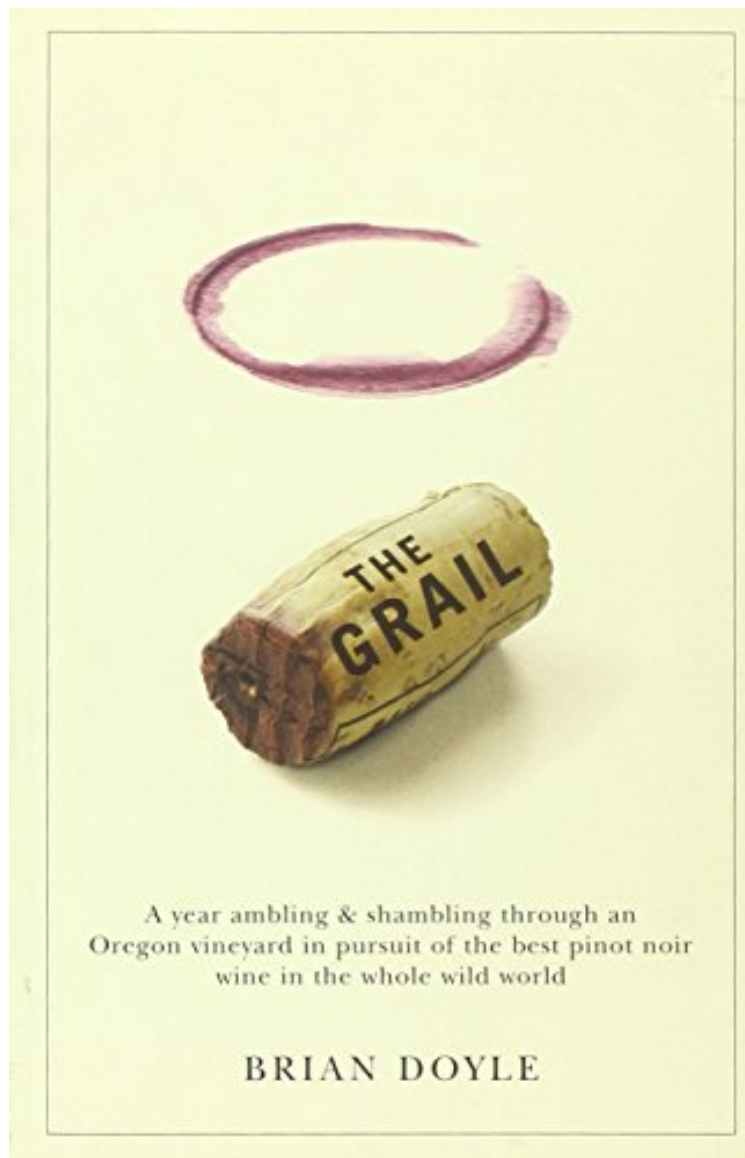


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Grail, The: A year ambling shambling through an Oregon vineyard in pursuit of the best pinot noir wine in the whole wild world

Brian Doyle

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Brian Doyle : Grail, The: A year ambling shambling through an Oregon vineyard in pursuit of the best pinot noir wine in the whole wild world before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grail, The: A year ambling shambling through an Oregon vineyard in pursuit of the best pinot noir wine in the whole wild world:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved Doyle and his pinot!By Donna L SullivanBeing a Brian Doyle fan AND a fan of pinot noir made selecting and reading The Grail an easy choice. So...I learned a lot about wine, specifically pinot and I learned it in a way that made me smile all the while I was reading. Brian Doyle's zest for everything is so apparent in this year of adventuring in Lange Vineyards. The book is written with love and grace and joy. I thoroughly enjoyed it and felt like I was "ambling" with this wonderful author.13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Oenophile's delightBy Chas. JohnsonFor an insider's look of a year in the life of a boutique Oregon winery, this is the book. We follow the Lange family, especially son Jesse, from the end of one harvest to the next. We learn that winemaking is not necessarily the romantic adventure we may think, but rather a labor-intensive farming operation with lots of machines that can break, everyday kinds of problems to be addressed. It isn't sitting back on a veranda sipping your latest creation - though there is some of that, to be sure - but lots of long days of often back-breaking work.Doyle is a competent and often entertaining writer, with occasional flashes of brilliance. He is informative and insightful, taking the role of aggressive reporter on the scene, being our eyes and ears, asking the kinds of questions that we, ordinary wine drinkers, would ask. I found, however, that his writing can slide into stiltedness, with an occasionally annoying affinity for alliteration. Sometimes, he's too self-consciously, awkwardly humorous. And at other times, he digresses off topic so far that you wonder why he included it in the book. Yet, he is also capable of mocking himself for having done so - which doesn't excuse it. It comes off as self-indulgence.One insight that I found particularly interesting was the aversion of the winemaker to pass judgment on any of his competitors' pinot noirs. Doyle tries several times to get Jesse Lange to compare his pinot noir to those of his neighbors - in vain. Jesse doesn't rise to the bait because, as he says, he has live here (here being Dundee, Oregon).On balance, "The Grail" is a worthwhile, entertaining read. It was a gift to me, and I turned around and bought three more copies to give to wine enthusiast friends.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Doyle's usual delightful rambling words plus really a truly useful look at the perils and year long pleasures of ...By WynDoyle's usual delightful rambling words plus really a truly useful look at the perils and year long pleasures of growing grapes and making wine.

A self-described wine doofus spends a year in a small Oregon vineyard, chronicling the creative and chaotic labor as the winemakers chase after the perfect pinot noir.