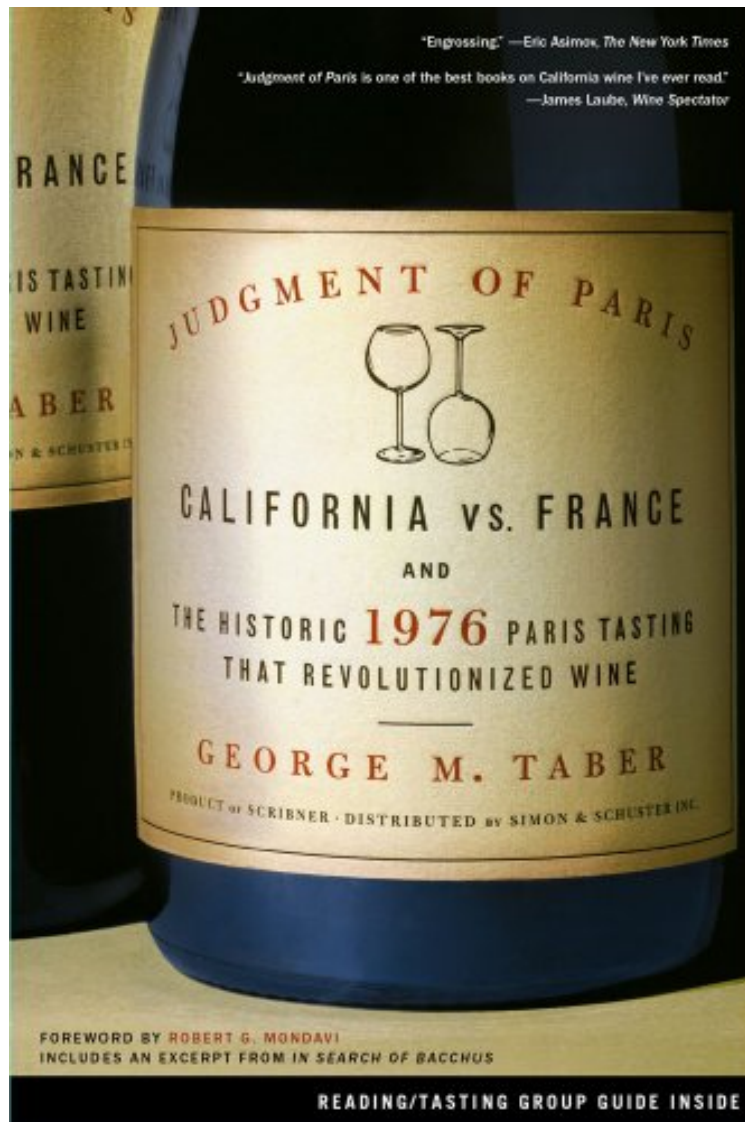


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## Judgment of Paris

*George M. Taber*

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#64517 in Books George M Taber 2006-11-21 2006-11-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, .82 #File Name: 0743297326336 pages Judgment of Paris California vs France and the Historic 1976 Paris Tasting That Revolutionized Wine | File size: 41.Mb

**George M. Taber : Judgment of Paris** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Judgment of Paris:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent discussion of the tasting that brought California wine to the attention of the world By Detail-oriented I was in the US Navy in Chicago 1975-77. I was also beginning a hobby of collecting wine. After a trip to Napa Valley I began to pay attention to California wines. In mid-1976 I read an article

in the NY Times about a tasting that had occurred in Paris earlier that summer in which 2 California wines, Stag's Leap 1973 CS and Chateau Montelena 1975 Chardonnay had bested a group of respectable French Bordeaux and Bergundy wines. What was particularly striking was the all-French tasting panel. I purchased a case of the 1973 Stag's Leap and enjoyed it over the next several years. I still have two bottles that have been stored under reasonable conditions and will open them one of these days. The account in the Judgement of Paris by George Taber is well-written, factual (as I recall the events) and captures some of the ferment (no pun intended) of 1970s California wine making. It was a different time when it was possible to meet and get to know (for the purchase of a half-dozen bottles of wine) some of the greats. Joseph Swan, Joe Heitz, Warren Winarski, and even Robert Mondavi were accessible with some effort. What a trip it has been. Mr. Taber puts these early days (actually not the early days, but the post prohibition renaissance) in perspective very nicely and captures some of the uncertainty and headiness of those days. I had not read this book before, but enjoyed it very much. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book could change your life. By B. Boyd Very well written and very informative not only on the Judgement but also about the process of winemaking. I just started reading it after having come from Napa for the weekend and visiting Stag's Leap, Grgich Hills, Mondavi and others. If you're planning a trip to the area, do yourself a favor and read this book beforehand. You'll go to Napa with your eyes wide open. You'll also probably quit your job, buy a house in Napa and start dabbling in the wine business. This book could cost you millions! OK, kidding. Kind of. Great book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read for folks who want to develop an in-depth ... By Hill Climber An excellent read for folks who want to develop an in-depth knowledge of wines and winemaking in the U.S. and France. The author, George M. Taber, has followed this excellent factual documentary text with another great book which I highly recommend. George's next wine book is "To Cork or Not to Cork. It may not sound exciting, but George has done an outstanding job of researching the technology of sealing wine bottles over a rather extended period of time. He points up the issues, the alternatives, the problems, the quality control issues of cork production, and has written an excellent thesis on the move to screw-top technology. For me, this book achieved the remarkable status of being nearly a "Page Turner". Excitement in Corking!!

The only reporter present at the mythic Paris Tasting of 1976—a blind tasting where a panel of esteemed French judges chose upstart California wines over Francersquo;s best—for the first time introduces the eccentric American winemakers and records the tremendous aftershocks of this historic event that changed forever the world of wine. The Paris Tasting of 1976 will forever be remembered as the landmark event that transformed the wine industry. At this legendary contest—a blind tasting—a panel of top French wine experts shocked the industry by choosing unknown California wines over Francersquo;s best. George M. Taber, the only reporter present, recounts this seminal contest and its far-reaching effects, focusing on three gifted unknowns behind the winning wines: a college lecturer, a real estate lawyer, and a Yugoslavian immigrant. With unique access to the main players and a contagious passion for his subject, Taber renders this historic event and its tremendous aftershocks—repositioning the industry and sparking a golden age for viticulture across the globe. With an eclectic cast of characters and magnificent settings, Judgment of Paris is an illuminating tale and a story of the entrepreneurial spirit of the new world conquering the old.

From Publishers Weekly In 1976, a Paris wine shop arranged a tasting as a gimmick to introduce some California wines; the judges, of course, were all French and militantly chauvinistic. Only one journalist bothered to attend, a Time correspondent, looking for a possible American angle. The story he got turned out to be a sensation. In both red and white blind tastings, an American wine won handily: a 1973 Stag's Leap cabernet and a 1973 Chateau Montelena chardonnay. When the story was published the following week, it stunned both the complacent French and fledgling American wine industries—and things have never been the same since. Taber, the Time man, has fashioned an entertaining, informative book around this event. Following a brisk history of the French-dominated European wine trade with a more detailed look at the less familiar American effort, he focuses on the two winning wineries, both of which provide him with lively tales of colorful amateurs and immigrants making good, partly through willingness to experiment with new techniques. While the outrage of some of the judges is funny, this is a serious business book, too, sure to be required reading for American vintners and oenophiles. Photos. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In 1976, a Paris-based British wine merchant, Steven Spurrier, organized a blind tasting of California and French wines in honor of the bicentennial of the American Revolution. With labels hidden from view, French wine experts in attendance at Spurrier's event pronounced the California wines generally superior to those from France. Some judges professed to be unable even to discern which wines were French and which American. Media reports of this tasting sent shockwaves throughout the wine world. Thirty years after the event, this seems very old news, but at the time it marked an absolute revolution in taste and in expectations. California's wine industry took off, commanding ever-higher prices and attracting even more talent. French wineries were forced to innovate and find better ways to market their formerly unrivalled bottlings. Taber expands on the events leading up to this celebrated event with a readable, concise history of wine making in

America, recounting the long journey from sweet, sacramental concord grape wines to today's range of sophisticated offerings. Mark Knoblauch Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "Engrossing." -- Eric Asimov, The New York Times "Judgment of Paris is one of the best books on California wine I've ever read." -- James Laube, Wine Spectator "[Taber] tells the tale with the same authority, depth, and clarity as the American wines that won. . . . Fascinating characters, great locales, and a fine bouquet." -- Walter Isaacson, author of Benjamin Franklin "A vivid, robust story that goes down smoothly." -- Entertainment Weekly "If ever a story about wine could rise above the 'cooking, wine, and spirits' category and find a wider public, this is it." -- Barron's