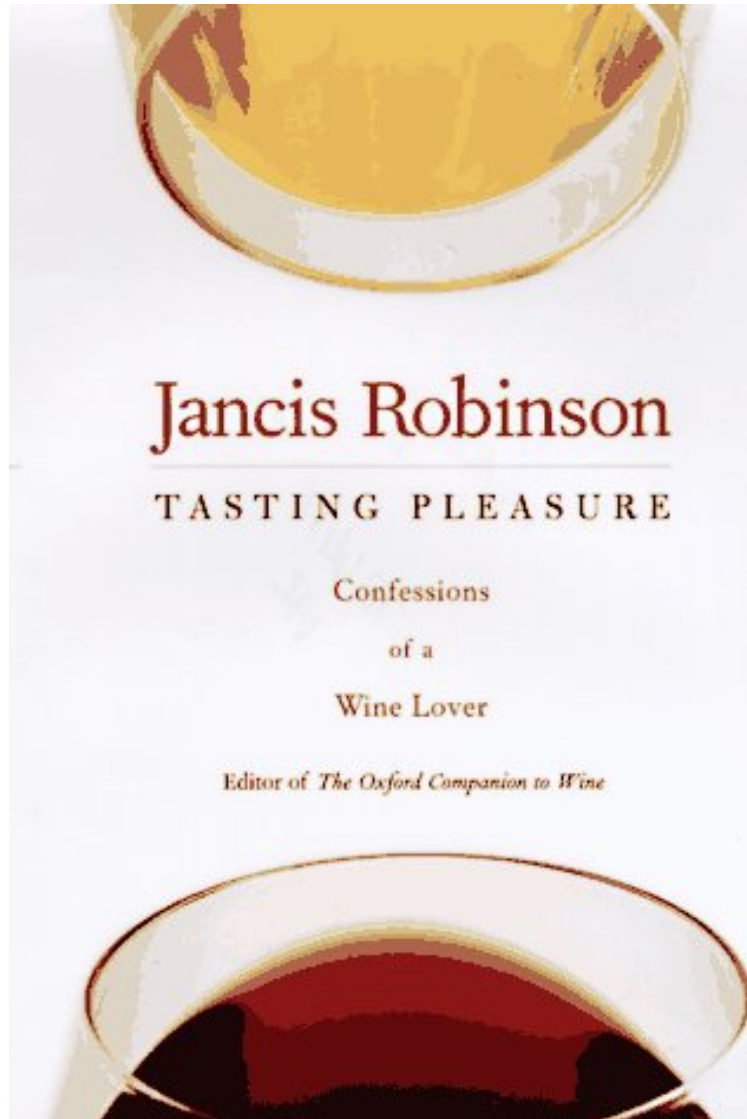


## Tasting Pleasure: Confessions of a Wine Lover

Jancis Robinson

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#2860598 in Books Viking Adult 1997-10-01 1997-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.28 x 1.12 x 6.36l, #File Name: 0670854239352 pages | File size: 48.Mb

**Jancis Robinson : Tasting Pleasure: Confessions of a Wine Lover** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tasting Pleasure: Confessions of a Wine Lover:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An adventure in the discovery of wine; where it came from; and why is does to us what it does. By World traveler The story of "you" and your discovery and exploration of the wonders of wine. Minervois is mentioned often. Who would have thought. Most Americans have never heard of it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Just a Wine Lover? By K. M. Pollard I confess to a liking for books from those who are knowledgeable when it comes to wine. Perhaps it is more correct to say books that provide me with knowledge and

personal insights. Jancis Robinson's "Tasting Pleasure" is a particularly insightful look into the birth and growth of a wine connoisseur. In some respects the stars align perfectly for Ms Robinson as she rises, very quickly, from tour guide to assistant editor of the British wine trade magazine *Wine Spirit* in 1975, to Master of Wine in 1984, to author and TV presenter. However it is also clear that the considerable knowledge and experience that she gained during these years contributed significantly to the evolution of her career and to her current status. She has been privileged to taste some extraordinary wines in the company of some extraordinary wine tasters; Michael Broadbent to name just one. It is easy for those of us who are unlikely to rise to such heights of pleasure to fall into the trap of dismissing such experiences as conceited ramblings. But it should be appreciated that access to such wine completes the spectrum of tasting experiences available to the connoisseur; those of us who taste the great and the near great have to be satisfied with being somehow incomplete. What is interesting is that Ms Robinson prefers to call herself a Wine Lover, that is something we can all claim to be. 10 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Is this a vintage read? By A Customer It is difficult to critique a book that one should not be reading. After slogging through the 334 pages of this "diary dump", I am convinced that I am not in Jancis' target market for this particular book. I am relatively new to wine, but am developing a significant interest in it. But, I must conclude that either her target market consists of Jancis fans who want to read every word-at times I thought literally-she has jotted in her daily notes or-like the great vintage wines she describes-one cannot possibly appreciate this book until one has stored it for 15 or more years. Why, then, give it 2 stars versus 1? On the plus side, she writes well and, obviously, has a deep knowledge of and appreciation for wine. Further, there are short passages that are riveting; e.g., her tasting of a "[Thomas] Jefferson's Mouton", vintage 1787. Moreover, one does absorb an appreciation of the time and effort she puts into her work, and one (cautiously) generalizes that appreciation of wine can be-literally-a life-consuming endeavor. On the minus side, there are the words. Often I recalled the (perhaps) apocryphal tale of Mozart's reaction to being told there were too many notes in one of his compositions. Here I caught myself wondering how in the world she managed to document all the minutiae she wrote (e.g., film production difficulties due to her pregnancy, and her husband's restaurant opening tribulations). Other times I caught myself looking at my watch as if sitting in a theater watching a movie by someone directing their life story, a rather disagreeable task on the surface. Did this book have an editor? In sum, avoid this book in favor of one of her other fine books. Unless, that is, you aspire to become a female authority on wines, who writes books, produces numerous video and television series, whose husband becomes a very successful restaurateur, and who leads an apparently satisfying life. Oh yes, she tastes and drinks a quite a lot of wine.

Writing with Julia Child's authority, Elizabeth David's intelligence, and M.F.K. Fisher's verve, Jancis Robinson shares her lifelong romance with wine and its attendant pleasures--gastronomic, scenic, cultural, and social.

From *Library Journal* The editor and author of almost a dozen British books on wine, including *The Oxford Companion to Wine* (LJ 12/94), Robinson knows the wine world inside and out. Here she shares her love for and knowledge of wine via a collection of autobiographical anecdotes and sketches covering everything from the time spent early in her career writing for *Wine and Spirit* magazine to her adventures taping the Wine Course for the BBC. Dedicated wine enthusiasts and collectors will drink up Robinson's stories of meetings with the luminaries of the wine world and her visits to the vineyards of countries as varied as France and Australia. However, the average American reader might be overwhelmed by the emphasis on the British wine trade. Libraries with comprehensive wine book collections or public libraries catering to a gourmet clientele will want to consider. ?John Charles, Scottsdale P.L., Ariz. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Kirkus* sIn case you were interested, here's everything you could ever possibly want to know about Robinson's (*Oxford Companion to Wine*) career trajectory. Robinson, who has been a fixture in the wine writing establishment for 25 years, teeters precariously, wanting her readers to know that she is both a wine connoisseur--exquisitively sensitive to the historical, geographical, and sociological contexts of wine--and a populist rabble-rouser, bucking received opinion as she champions the wine-drinking pleasures open to Everyman. She quaffs Grands Echezeaux, La Tache, Romanee-Conti, 1847 Yquem, and 1787 Branne Moutons, has "swashbuckling" Harold Evans as her editor at London's *Sunday Times*, and hobnobs with Hugh Johnson and Edmund Penning-Rowsell, But she also starts up the *Drinker's Digest*, an opinionated and iconoclastic newsletter dedicated to the principle of the best wine for the best price. Readers will learn the holdings in her cellar, her peregrinations through the wine-trade publications, the many personalities she meets, the astonishing meals she enjoys, and will share her each and every momentous occasion ("I shall never forget my first formal wine tasting"; "My most embarrassing trial by tasting took place. . . .", etc.). She gets serious now and then--discussing the pros and cons of blind tastings, detailing how Robert M. Parker Jr. has gained his mind-boggling sway over the wine world--but for the most part, this reads like a gossip column that can't turn a decent sentence ("The others are that there are anyway enough people who love Tertre, for it is probably the only Saint-Emilion other than the top-ranking Ausone and Cheval Blanc"). Despite its moments, this autobiography is clunky, desperately self-promoting, and, at best, premature. -- Copyright 1997, *Kirkus Associates, LP*. All rights reserved. About the Author Jancis Robinson, winner of Julia Child and James Beard awards, writes about wine for *The Financial Times* and *The Wine Spectator*.

Among her nine wine books are the bestselling *Oxford Companion to Wine* (editor) and Jancis Robinson's *Wine Course*, the basis of a five-hour 1996 PBS-TV series. She lives in London.