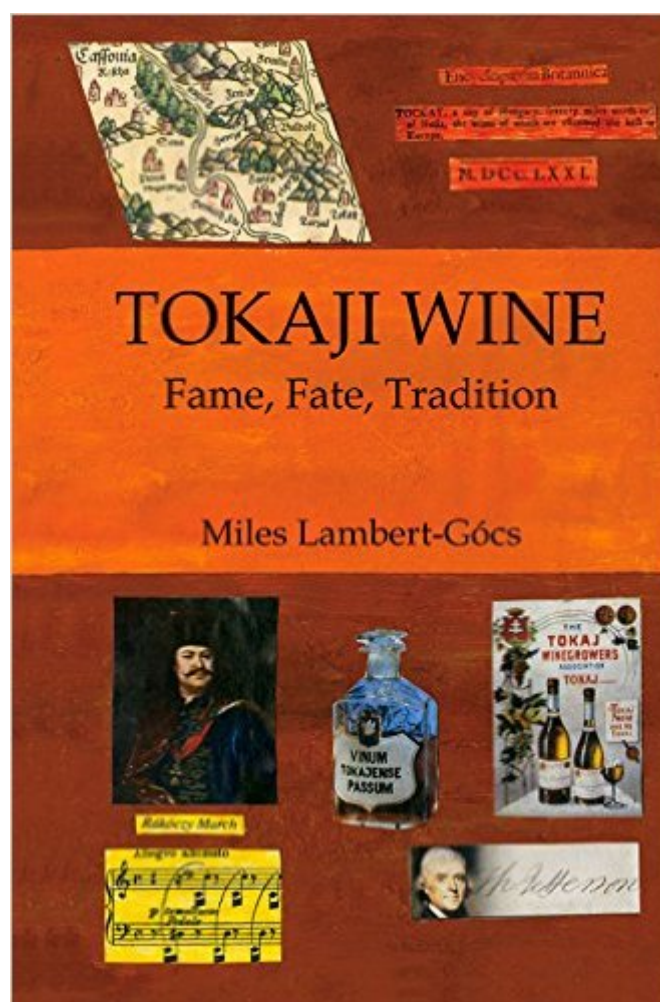


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Tokaji Wine: Fame, Fate, Tradition



Synopsis

The world's first botrytis wine, Hungary's Tokaji won an enviable reputation centuries ago, but never before have the development of its wine types and the story of its ups and downs in fame and prestige been presented so fully in English. Relying on an array of Hungarian source materials, author Miles Lambert-Gocs sets the information out in encyclopedia fashion, with easily digested, A-to-Z entries that discuss the people, places, vineyard-tracts, grape varieties, and wine-making associated with this wine. Besides being an outstanding reference work, Tokaji Wine is sprinkled with fascinating notes and bacchic humor that make it a delight to read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let's assume you enjoy wine and perhaps even look forward to a fine cognac or brandy after that special meal. Well then, you must get a copy of the new book TOKAJI WINE [pronounced TOEkai] by award-winning wine writer Miles Lambert-Gocs. In this his fourth just-released and best book, the well-traveled author chronicles the storied history attached to this unique golden-wine from Hungary. What do you mean you've never heard of it? Connecting his research, expertise and Hungarian lineage with great enthusiasm Lambert-Gocs offers the reader an unconventional but wonderfully readable four parts, each in A to Z subject format preceded by a brief introductory essay. The alphabetical listings contain many cross-references, which can become addictive; you will unconsciously find yourself flipping pages to read it like a mystery novel. The first part, for example, entices you with history dating back to the year 896 when Magyars, who were to become

modern-day Hungarians, arrived from southern Russia. He reveals how tokaji evolved down through the centuries, snaring many wine lovers in its grasp, including Thomas Jefferson for one, who had it shipped to Monticello. To find out why Jefferson and so many other famous men and women became enamored with this fruit of the vine, check the wine list or after-dinner drink menu at your favorite restaurant. Try it for yourself. And of course, the author concludes with modern times and tells you how to identify the good stuff. TMG

This book is essentially divided into four parts, each part being encyclopedic entries arranged in alphabetical order. The entries present extensive information on all aspects of Tokaji wine, including the history thereof - the level of detail is certainly the strong point of the book, which will be of on-going use as reference material. As a book it is quite disjointed, particularly the historical section which bounces around from one time zone to another and frequently with recommendations to read another encyclopedic entry somewhere else in the book. I have been often told that a "picture tells 1000 words". This book does not contain even one picture and I felt that many entries required such a picture. The book does however present three "maps". I use the term "map" very loosely because they really are no more than sketches undertaken using any word processor software.

Non-Hungarians do not know the layout of the present let alone the past Tokaji area well - at the very least the book deserved much better maps.

For those in the wine world who thrive on detail, this unusual book really fills the bill. Few wines have as complex a context as Tokaji, whether dealing with history, sociology, or even in treating questions of language. Politics, given Hungary's tempestuous history and its substantial exposure to Communism only recently, also comes into play. With the new millennium, of course, Tokaji, like Hungary, promises a future to match its formidable past. Miles Lambert-Gocs has not written this book to read like a novel, and good for him. Most novels are less interesting, especially for those, like me, who consistently hope for true depth on a subject. You will undoubtedly browse this book at first. Once you are hooked - and let us hope some actual Tokaji consumption comes into play - you may give it a cover-to-cover and strive to learn more about this bottomless subject. (When the time comes for a break in the action, you always have the wine itself.)

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