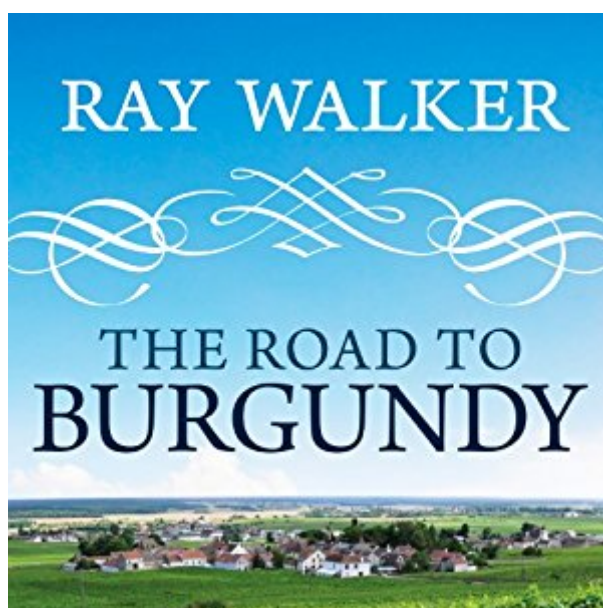


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# The Road To Burgundy: The Unlikely Story Of An American Making Wine And A New Life In France



## Synopsis

Ray Walker had a secure career in finance until a wine-tasting vacation ignited a passion that he couldn't stifle. Ray neglected his work, spending hours poring over ancient French winemaking texts, learning the techniques and the language, and daydreaming about vineyards. After Ray experienced his first taste of wine from Burgundy, he could wait no longer. He quit his job and went to France to start a winery - with little money, a limited command of French, and virtually no winemaking experience. Fueled by determination and joie de vivre, he immersed himself in the extraordinary history of Burgundy's vineyards and began honing his skills. Ray became a pioneer in his use of ancient techniques in modern times and founded Maison Ilan. In 2009, Ray became the first non-French winemaker to purchase grapes and produce a wine from Le Chambertin, long considered to be one of the most revered and singular vineyards in the world. Along with his struggle to capture his wine's distinct terroir, Ray shares enthralling stories of late-night tastings, flying down the Route National on a vintage Peugeot bicycle with no brakes, and his journey to secure both the trust of his insular Burgundian neighbors and the region's most coveted grapes. Capturing the sunlight, the smell of the damp soil, and the taste of superlative wine, *The Road to Burgundy* is a glorious celebration of finding one's true path in life, and taking a chance - whatever the odds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My interest in this book was twofold. I love Pinot Noir and wanted to work at a winery in emerging

Oregon which takes Pinot Noir very seriously. I was a sommelier in Florida and moved across the country to pursue my dream in 2006. It all worked out and I was at the winery for 5 years . I still love Pinot Noir and the challenges Ray Walker faced were very similar to challenges I faced in working directly in the wine industry. I thrived and so has he all thanks to perseverance and talent. The book documents his drive and hard work. Salut! And congratulations to all those who dream big and succeed.

The story follows the odyssey of the author from stock broker trainee in San Francisco to wine maker in Burgundy. Ray is a young man, who follows his dream and his heart to do with his life what he truly wants to do. The result in making wine in Burgundy. It is a fascinating, but at times a frustrating read. The story line changes time and place with so little explanation - an alien abduction might be easier to follow. You will laugh, cry and at times think how naive can he be. The last three years are covered in just a few pages, it would be fun to read more about those three years.

Interesting story, entertaining and inspirational. The guy who read the book, however....his French pronunciation was horrible....il Ā©tait trop mauvais. Sorry, but the spoken French was so bad, I couldn't understand a 3rd of it. If that was intentional, reflecting Ray's horrible French when he arrived, you accomplished your mission. Mais alors..... I'd give more stars were it not for the French...and no, I'm not an uppity Francophone.

I learned about Ray Walker a few years ago through an internet message board focused on wine. Ever since then, I had dreamed of walking out of my office, leaving the day-to-day routine behind and chasing a romantic dream. Although I have not been able to take the leap myself, The Road to Burgundy allowed me to experience it through Ray's story. This was a great quick read, which I finished on my bus ride to and from work every day and one evening session while drinking a nice premier cru red Burgundy. If nothing else, The Road to Burgundy is a reminder that big dreams are not the same thing as pipe dreams. Read the book and feel inspired.

Read the book over a day. If you believe quality of life is based on making the most amount of money, think again. It is about following a dream, living in Nuits Saint Georges, becoming part of the community, and making great Chambertin Grand Cru. Read the book to find out how he got there, it is unbelievable.

A totally engrossing chronicle of an individual following his dream. Ray Walker took a chance and made it happen. His story is one of persistence, grit, good fortune and the love of a good woman.

Enjoyed book.

An inspiration to all dreamers. I now have more knowledge to draw the courage I need to live my own dreams.

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