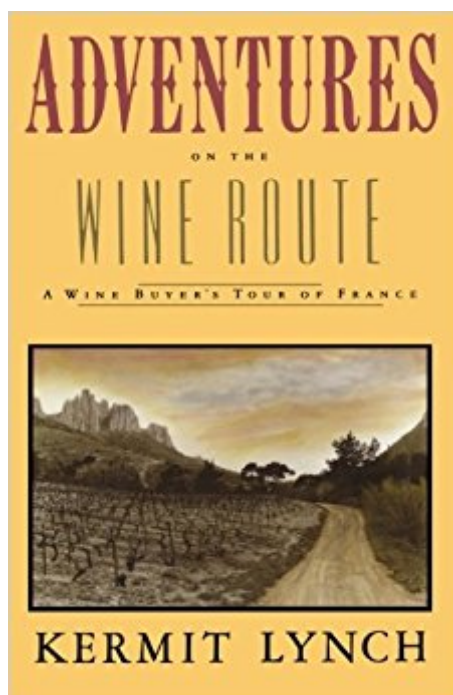


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# Adventures On The Wine Route: A Wine Buyer's Tour Of France



## Synopsis

Kermit Lynch's recounting of his experiences on the wine route and in the wine cellars of France takes the reader through the Loire, Bordeaux, the Languedoc, Provence, Northern and Southern Rhone, and the Cote d'Or.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Wine is, above all, pleasure. Those who would make it ponderous make it dull," declares wine importer Lynch in this robustly irreverent account of his quest through France in search of wine. Lynch's winefoolery is serious; drollery never compromises his knowledge of his subject or his high standards. Even when mocking the misdeeds of viniculturalists, he remains an arbiter who merely wishes "wine could be a constitutionally protected form of expression." Hating wine hype, Lynch criticizes modern agricultural and manufacturing methods with equal fervor. He laughs at trends in wine consumption, and singles out modern greed as a corrupter. Effortlessly eloquent, Lynch is a master of the brief barb: "Loving Chablis is like falling in love with a frigid floozy." The author prefers a wine that offers "a subtle seduction; it keeps you coming back for more." So too with this unusual guide: it makes you thirst for a sequel. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• One of the pleasantest and truest books about wine I've ever read. • M. F. K.

Fisher • Nearly all wine books are written by experts whose intention is primarily to inform or to

educate. They give little aesthetic pleasure. Kermit Lynch is certainly an expert, but his book, *Adventures on the Wine Route*, is also a great pleasure to read. In Kermit Lynch's small, true, delightful book there is more understanding about what wine really is than in everything else I have read. • Victor Hazan • Kermit Lynch's colorful portraits of some idiosyncratic vintners, and his commentaries on their wines, make for some of the finest reading since Joseph Wechsberg ate and drank his way through France in his book *Blue Trout and Black Truffles*. • Robert M. Parker, Jr., *The Wine Advocate*

This book was really interesting about the wines of France in great deal. It helped me understand the differences in the wine variety, the manufacture and blending of wines and the process. It was interesting to note how the process from fruit to bottle is changing (not necessarily better for the consumer) to improve profit yield and many old time wineries are selling out to huge corporations who have nothing to do with wine making, only money making. This author is a gem in knowledge about the nuances of every variety, the minute detail of the processing and bottling and then shipping wines from France to California. He takes the reader on a tour of France, covering each wine region. Too bad I found this book 2 years after I visited many of the regions he so thoroughly describes. all the more reason to now go back and see it from a wine lover's perspective. I would highly recommend this book if you enjoy wines, what makes the wines we enjoy enjoyable or not. And he speaks about the history of France along the wine route!

Written by a wine professional, Kermit Lynch wrote an ode to the fine art of wine making for us all to enjoy. In the process, he wrote of a time and place in France that has changed dramatically 25 years later. His French contacts are the small family owned vineyards that produce high quality, small yield old growth wine using the old French traditional methods. In the update written for the 25th anniversary edition, he brings us up to date with some of the characters we loved from the original edition. He regrets the passing of his old friends and, with it, the old school methods and traditions of traditional French winemaking. He regrets the profusion of the mass produced wine that we get today using short cut methods to produce large volumes of wine devoid of that signature French *Acetaste*. In *Adventures on the Wine Route*, Kermit Lynch wrote an ode to a way of life in French wine, of a time and place that was special and in so doing he wrote a love story for us all.

Who doesn't love Kermit? Mr. Lynch has done much for the American wine scene. He was a

pioneer in finding and bringing world-class French wine to America. Without his presence our wine world would be much less compelling. Kermit Lynch is to be thanked for his passion and his contribution to wine in America. That said, his famed collection of stories and tales does show its age. Unfortunately, time has relegated *Adventures on the Wine Route* to a historical footnote. Realizing that he redefined the relationship between an importer and his catalog, many of the writings found in this seminal volume are a bit old and frayed. It's a wistful look at a wine world that really doesn't exist anymore. Good when it was here, but we've moved beyond. Thanks, Kermit, for everything you've done.

Got thru about half of it. Lots of info, but most of it is about winemakers for whom the average reader could only HOPE to meet. I read the book during my trip through Provence, the Chateneuf-du-Pape region and lower Burgundy. I was able to take away a few key concepts, but for the average wine-loving traveler, Kermit Lynch's itinerary is an unobtainable dream. Kermit Lynch writes about his LONG-TIME relationships with individual vintners. He does discuss current practices which adversely affect the quality of estate-produced wines in these regions (on-site bottling that saps the character of the wine, which seems to be ubiquitous in the aforementioned regions) leading me to believe that most of the so-called Burgundy and Chateneuf-du-Pape appellations are nothing more than patrimony designed to preserve the status quo, but not the quality of the product. Despite my take-away and incomplete reading I'd still recommend.

For any wine lover or Francophile this book will make an excellent read. This is a combination of a travelogue and introduction to French wines written by a man who has had a unique influence on American wine consumption in recent decades. It is well-written and filled with personal insights and comments as well as useful information and contains many enjoyable tales of Lynch's experiences while seeking out wines to import from France. Although the events recounted took place in the 70s and 80s, they provide wonderful insights into the nature of wine production and the character of local wine producers and the areas they lived in in every major wine-producing region of France. Things may have changed somewhat since the book was written, both in the ways in which Americans consume wine and in the way the French produce it, but there is much that is still recognizable and relevant to our contemporary understanding. And in any case, reading about the interesting wines and various personalities involved in producing and selling them who Lynch encountered is both educational and very enjoyable. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in French wines or in understanding this very interesting aspect of French culture.

This is an interesting and fun book, especially for me, as one who loves good wine, but doesn't take the entire wine world too seriously. In the 1960's, living back East, I and my then wife enjoyed French wine which, in those days, was reasonably priced and often memorable. Mr Lynch, proprietor of a famous restaurant in Berkeley, California, began his wine travels in the 1970's and continued them in the '80s. This book tells the story of his adventures and of friends he made among the vigneronns of France, mostly in the parts of the country less famous than Burgundy and Bordeaux. Mr. Lynch has his strong views, many of which seem sound to me. Wine going through the Panama Canal or across the country non-refrigerated is ruined. Filtering and fining is not good for wine. Apparently, the 1970's and 1980's saw a falling off in quality because of unfortunate fashions among consumers, which led to many questionable practices in the trade. I apparently experienced a golden age before the decline. This book is a joyful read and one may learn much which adds to one's enjoyment of wine.

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