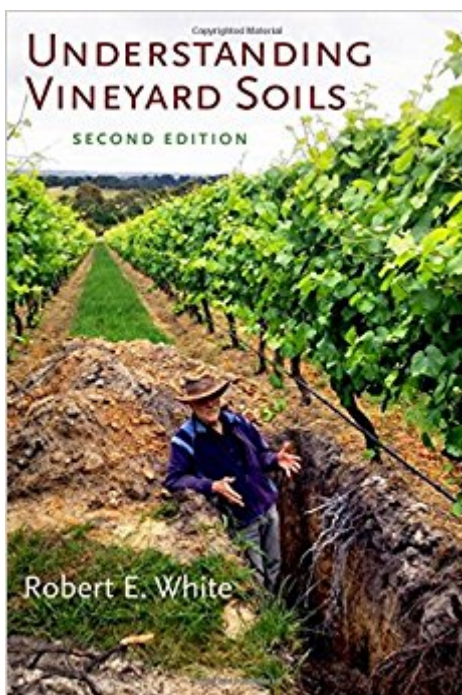


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# Understanding Vineyard Soils



## Synopsis

The first edition of *Understanding Vineyard Soils* has been praised for its comprehensive coverage of soil topics relevant to viticulture. However, the industry is dynamic--new developments are occurring, especially with respect to measuring soil variability, managing soil water, possible effects of climate change, rootstock breeding and selection, monitoring sustainability, and improving grape quality and the "typicity" of wines. All this is embodied in an increased focus on the terroir or "sense of place" of vineyard sites, with greater emphasis being placed on wine quality relative to quantity in an increasingly competitive world market. The promotion of organic and biodynamic practices has raised a general awareness of "soil health", which is often associated with a soil's biology, but which to be properly assessed must be focused on a soil's physical, chemical, and biological properties. This edition of White's influential book presents the latest updates on these and other developments in soil management in vineyards. With a minimum of scientific jargon, *Understanding Vineyard Soils* explains the interaction between soils on a variety of parent materials around the world and grapevine growth and wine typicity. The essential chemical and physical processes involving nutrients, water, oxygen and carbon dioxide, moderated by the activities of soil organisms, are discussed. Methods are proposed for alleviating adverse conditions such as soil acidity, sodicity, compaction, poor drainage, and salinity. The pros and cons of organic viticulture are debated, as are the possible effects of climate change. The author explains how sustainable wine production requires winegrowers to take care of the soil and minimize their impact on the environment. This book is a practical guide for winegrowers and the lay reader who is seeking general information about soils, but who may also wish to pursue in more depth the influence of different soil types on vine performance and wine character.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This edition is marked by the same high quality as the original edition, but the author adds material and makes organizational modifications that serve the reader well. ... This is a solid addition to viticulture literature. Recommended." --Choice  
"Robert White explains vineyard soil science in detail from many angles... Each topic is developed in depth in this searching and thorough treatise, which provides an excellent reference text for professionals and amateurs alike." --The Biologist

Robert White has had an outstanding international career in soil, water and nutrient management for more than 40 years. After working for many years in broad-acre agriculture, he turned his attention to the fascinating interaction between soil and the flavor and aromas of wines world-wide, a topic that happily marries sensory pleasure with science.

It is a very precise, scientific and at the same time a very practical book for the fieldman. It has complimenting information in addition to information on soils that make this book an important source of information for anybody that is in the business of growing grapes. It can also be of interest to professionals that are involved in the production of other fruit crops where quality is an important issue.

Great book for understanding a bit more about terroir.

Good book, was looking for something a little more basic but am very happy with it

Great book with lots of details. Lottle bit too technical for me as non chemistry guy. Little bit more accent on organic and BD growing would be desirable. Some topics like soil GIS scanning that are performed with expensive machinery not valuable for small wineries. Overall five star as it gives a full understanding of soils as the title claims.

An easy to understand overview. Can't wait for a more thorough work. Excellent book, highly recommended.

Great information.

Great reference material with detail analysis

If it's as good as my First Edition, it's a steal. Buy it. The guy KNOWS what he's talking about. You'll have to adjust some for your own local conditions but you'll at least know what you should be looking for and what it's all about. Soil IS important, MORE important than most growers realize, says a Virginia grape-grower for 26 years. Dig one up and LOOK at the roots and where they are and what they're doing. You'll dig more than one, I can guarantee it ... if you care. If you don't care, why do you have a vineyard?

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