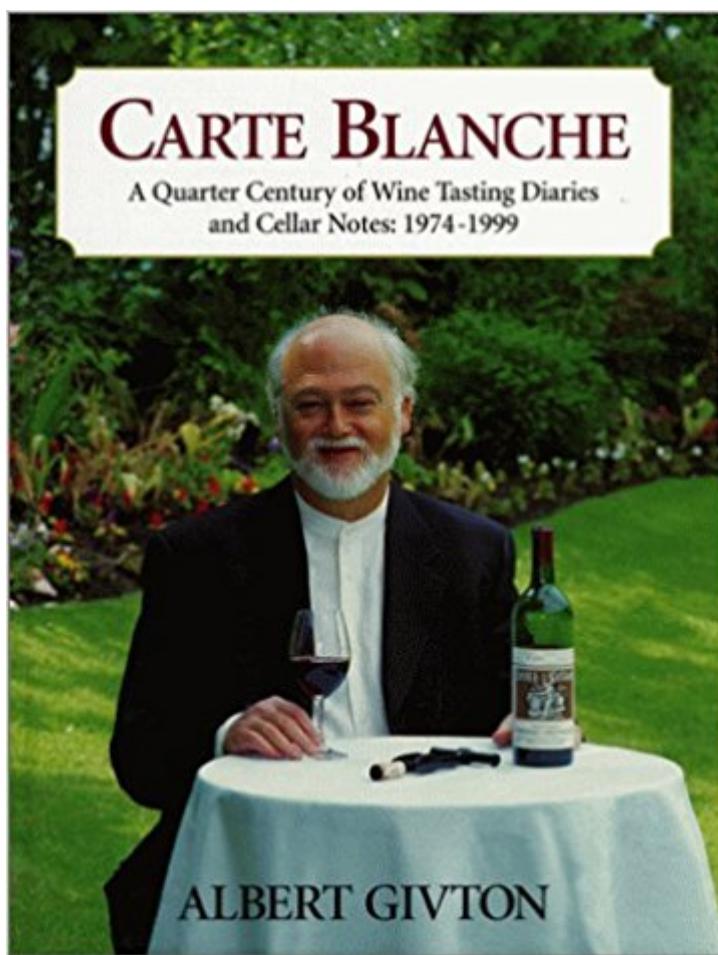


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Carte Blanche - A Quarter Century Of Wine Tasting Diaries And Cellar Notes: 1974-1999



Synopsis

In 'Carte Blanche', the author shares his detailed wine tasting notes and observations about "inside" players in the business, modifications in wine production methods, and the influence of wine "politics" on the wines themselves. Over the past 25 years, Albert Givton has had the opportunity to experience, first-hand, some of the greatest wines ever produced. As some of the older wines are now gone forever, his comments will prove invaluable for future generations of winemakers and wine lovers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

" This book is a 'monument' and I am amazed by all your tasting notes, references and comments on wines from all over the world. It is going to be one of the greatest reference books of our time." -- Mme. de Lencquesaing, Comtesse de Lalande Chateau Pichon Longueville" ..I don't know of any other tasting record so meticulously kept and so eminently publishable. I shall browse in it and refer to it as I work (work, indeed!) through my own cellar" -- Hugh Johnson, Essex, UK letter to Albert Givton "For serious collectors of Bordeaux and premium Napa Bottlings, Carte Blanche should prove to be a valuable resource..." -- Tim Pawsey, Vancouver Courier... The prodigious work relies heavily on detailed analysis and makes interesting browsing for anyone interested in wine. Givton recalls his extensive travels and tastings, particularly in Bordeaux and California, and his encounters with the glitterati of the wine industry's famous and infamous. While he may be enjoying the fruits of a near-ethereal cellar today, Givton forged much of his early reputation as an astute consumer

adviser by way of his regular newsletter that tracked down deals for subscribers anxious to get the best return for their wine dollar. That same level of diligence and considered comment is applied here, but at a headier level. Those seeking gossip of substance will find only snippets. However, for serious collectors of Bordeaux and premium Napa bottlings, "Carte Blanche" should prove to be an invaluable resource, as Givton also includes notes from his own cellar up to this year. -- Tim Pawsey, Vancouver Courier, September 29, 1999... While it might make interesting reading in the manner of a Waugh diary (a mentor and friend of Albert, by the way), its usefulness is greatly enhanced by the index of wines as well as a separate index of people. In addition, after the diary entries end, the author has assembled under specific and limited headings, by commune, for instance, a chronological history of certain selected wines... ...the whole book is salted with interesting comments and titbits of information. The iconoclastic approach taken in these comments should be particularly interesting and enlightening to habitual readers of the Wine Speculator. ...my strong recommendation of it is not induced by the fact that I am quoted in it or that I have shared some of the tasting events in the book with the author... Anyone interested can contact Albert - he will likely agree to sign the book for you, just as Robert Parker does ...and I would note that the binding appears to be of much higher quality than Parker's recent Bordeaux tome, which self-destructed, unassisted, while sitting quietly on my sideboard. -- By William Spohn, Internet..."Carte Blanche" should interest wine collectors. It will amuse and inform members of the wine trade." -- Bill Nesto's Books About Wine, Sept. 2001A connoisseur of keen sensibility who has no ax to grind shares his reactions to wines great and small... -- Chicago Tribune Dec. 15, 1999 from The buzz on the Vancouver wine scene this fall is about a provocative new book by Albert Givton, one of the most knowledgeable, uncompromising and opinionated wine tasters in this or any other city. ... The book is valuable for the notes on the many vintages of great wines that most of us can only dream of tasting; or are happy that we missed, like the 1924 Chateau Margaux that Givton bought at auction in 1977 and opened that year for his 32nd birthday. "Bouquet of rotten wood and musty...departed this world. Vinegar." ... It's vintage Albert (Take no prisoners) Givton that emerges from these notes. He has high expectations for great wines and the people involved with them, and little patience for those who ruin such expectations. ... Thank you, Albert, for writing this sometimes cantankerous but richly anecdotal chronicle of a passion for wine. -- John Schreiner, The West End Times, October 8, 1999

With the holiday season and millennium celebrations fast approaching, Carte Blanche would make a great gift for any serious wine collector or aficionado. Among other topics, this work reviews in

depth all the important Champagne producers, a relevant subject this time of the year.

Albert Givton has produced a wonderful work of wine literature helpful to anyone interested in a behind the scenes look at wine makers and their products. Definitely a good read and a useful tool when trying to find just the right wine for a special occasion or simply a regular evening at home.

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