

Quick Guide

Chapter 1.

Wine. Why we like it.

SURPRISING... BUT TRUE!

- In all probability pre-historic man knew how to make wine, and paleontologists have found fossils that appear to be the remains of grape pomace or pressed grapes.
 - The Egyptians introduced the labeling of wine. One such label read: *"in the year 30, the good wines from well-irrigated land of the temple of Ramses II in Per-Amon. Cellar manager: Tutmes"*.
 - Ancient Chinese literature features the case of a man who was punished in the year 2285 B.C.... for mixing wine with rice-wine!
 - Dionysius was the Greek god of the sub-conscious, of instinct, impulse, and thus came to be the god of wine. Thus wine liberates man from his cold rationalism and reveals to him his true interior. Or, as the Romans used to say, *in vino veritas*.
 - Wine is mentioned more than 200 times in the Bible.
 - Towards the second century A.D. it was estimated that nearly 20 million amphorae of Spanish wine had been shipped to the city of Rome. Solid proof of this fact is provided by the extraordinary artificial hill known as Monte Testaccio located in Rome. The hill is made up of small pieces of broken amphorae. This is because, 2000 years ago, the Tiber River was navigable, and all the ships that arrived in Rome transporting oil, grain or wine were laden with amphorae. Logically, many of the latter got broken during the crossing, and, once they had been unloaded, they were gradually piled up, thus creating the hill.
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