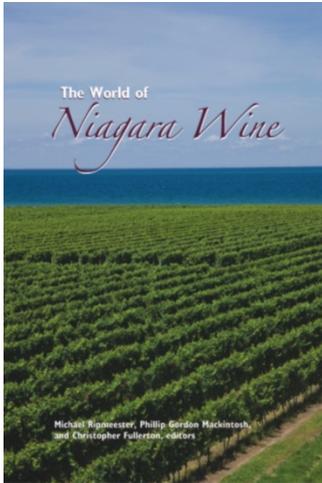


Not Another Wine Tour Pocket Guide



"I feel as if I'm sitting in on a roundtable discussion with a group of like-minded folks, all talking about wines while sipping some. In fact ... Get yourself a glass of something local before curling up with this book to listen in on the conversation." – Konrad Ejbich, CBC wine writer

SEPTEMBER 2013 – When the War of 1812 ended, Thomas Merritt – father of William Hamilton Merritt of Welland Canal fame – submitted a war loss claim. It listed one horse, two stoves and two feather beds along with damage to buildings, fences, crops, fruit trees and lastly, grape vines. According to *The World of Niagara Wine*, a new book from WLU Press, Merritt's claim would be one of the first references to organized grape growing in the Niagara Region.

"Our intention was to produce a book with wide appeal; one that would be of interest to people interested in wine, but also to people interested in the wider context of grape and wine production and to those who want to know more about Niagara generally," explains Michael Ripmeester, one of the book's three editors. Ripmeester, along with his co-editors Phillip Gordon Mackintosh and Christopher Fullerton are faculty members in the Department of Geography at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

From the history of the Vintners' Quality Alliance of Ontario (VQA) to a study of the architecture and landscape of Niagara wineries, *The World of Niagara Wine* is the first book to collect everything the budding sommelier or established connoisseur needs to know about southern Ontario's world-renowned wines. There's even a chapter on wine tasting for those still developing their palate.

"The book is one of the first to take a wider look at Niagara's grape and wine industry," continues Ripmeester. "This means that, although it is focused on wine, it also takes into account the wider social, economic, cultural, and political contexts of grape growing and wine making."

The book's first section explores the history and regulation of wine production. The second focuses on entrepreneurship, promotion, and marketing of Niagara wines. The third section introduces readers to the science of grape growing, wine tasting, and wine production. And the final section examines the social and cultural effects of Niagara's increasing economic reliance of grapes and wine.

"Grapes and wine in Niagara are easy to celebrate, and there are lots of books that do just that – including ours. Yet what makes ours unique is its refusal to overlook questions, for example, about the role of migrant labour in Niagara vineyards," Ripmeester concludes.

The World of Niagara Wine is currently available for purchase from any bookseller and on the publisher's website, wlu.press.wlu.ca, and is listed at \$28.99. Those who order online are eligible for a 25% discount. Review copies are available [here](#). Digital review copies available on NetGalley.

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