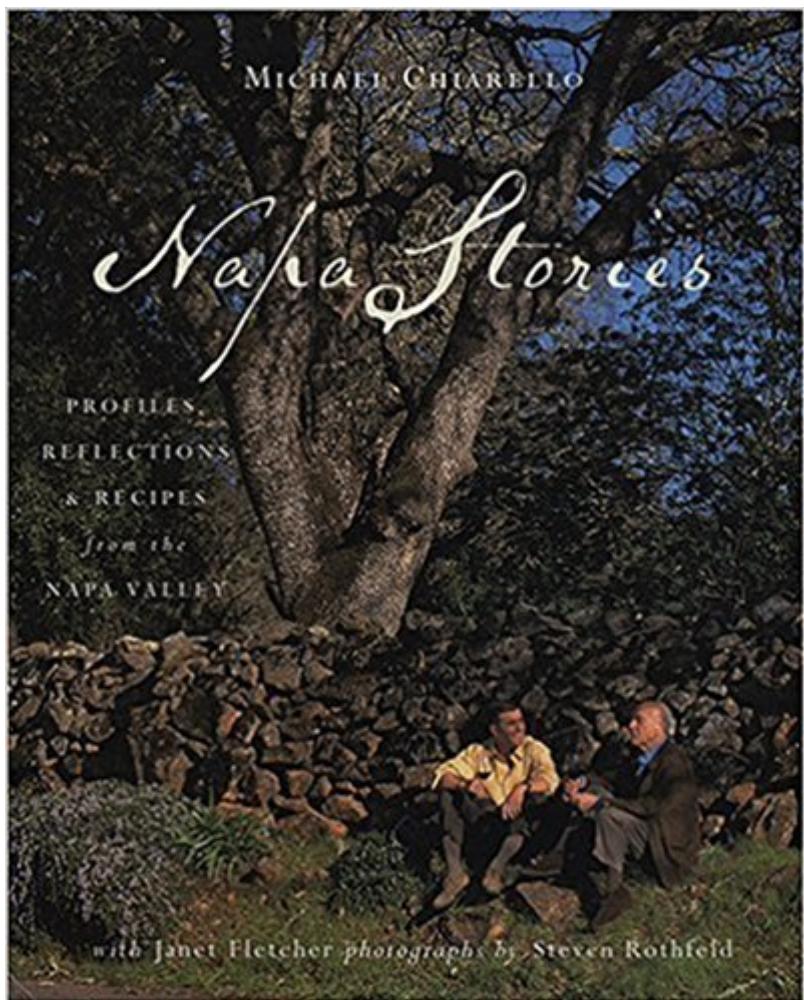


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Napa Stories: Profiles, Reflections, And Recipes From The Napa Valley



Synopsis

The story of Napa Valley winemaking is the story of its people - their triumphs and failures, their passion and commitment, and their ongoing struggle to produce world-class wines. In Michael Chiarello's stories and profiles, we meet the people who make the wine that gives the Napa Valley its singular reputation. As Chiarello points out, the best wines are more than just grapes, soil, and weather; there is a hint of the winemaker's character in them. By knowing the stories of the winemakers, we can taste the history and effort that has shaped every glass. The book includes vignettes that explain the winemaking process as a series of critical decisions, and the debate over these decisions often continues long after the wine is in the bottle. More than 150 stunning photographs by acclaimed photographer Steven Rothfeld capture the visual splendour of this remarkable place and highlight its cultural and culinary contributions. Chiarello brings an insider's insightful and intimate perspective to the story of this legendary region. He has created the ultimate gift book for everyone who enjoys the pleasures of fine wine.

Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Stewart, Tabori & Chang; 1st edition (September 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1584791160

ISBN-13: 978-1584791164

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 1.2 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #483,738 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > U.S. Regional > California #143 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking by Ingredient > Fish & Seafood #602 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Homebrewing, Distilling & Wine Making

Customer Reviews

This book is amazing. The stories told by the families are so rich and real that one truly begins to understand why the Napa Valley is so special. Michael Chiarello really does such a nice job with the families in the style and respect he shows (just as I have seen in his Tra Vigne Cookbook, and his PBS shows - Season by Season, and Michael Chiarello's Napa). The photography really brings one right into parts of the Napa Valley that have only been known previously by the people that live

there. The recipes are so special too, as they come from the kitchens of these families and from Chiarello. This is simply the best book ever on this very special and beautiful place...America's Tuscany.

Frankly, this book cost more than I usually pay for a bottle of wine. If this book were a bottle of wine, I would buy a case of it and share it with my very best friends. After savoring this classy book the wine you experience will never be the same. Even though Steven Rothfeld's photographs of the Napa Valley and Chef Michael Chiarello's gorgeous presentation of some outstanding cuisine are very pleasing to the eye, the most impressive thing about this book is the history of Napa Valley that unfolds between the photographs. This book is a beautiful seminar on how amazing it is that you can actually buy so many good bottles of wine. Although I have been to Napa Valley on several occasions and have taken more than a few tours through the various wineries, I did not fully appreciate all that is involved in making a good vintage. The history of this famous valley and the many trials and tribulations of the wine makers along with the fickle role of Nature that goes into that bottle of wine you just uncorked will make that first sip a lot more meaningful.

This book is an absolute delight. The sheer intimacy of the stories make you feel like an insider, and it provides an insight to the pioneering spirit that has created an industry. I was completely (and very pleasantly) unprepared for how much I enjoyed this book. It is truly a treasure.

The perfect compliment to a great Zin! Passionate and personal accounts of what moved some of the most interesting vintners to create great wines and how they celebrated their accomplishments. Unlike any book I've seen on the Napa Valley, and Michael brings alive the stories and traditions that make this place unique!

I just recently purchased this book even though it was written 11 years ago. Sometimes awkward because so much has changed (i.e. Robert Mondavi's passing away and sons no longer owning winery) yet I am a huge Napa Valley wine fan that I enjoy knowing the background of some wineries before I travel to visit them. Michael does a great job in writing and getting an intimate look at the life of a winemaker and the Napa lifestyle.

Put it this way folks...if it has Michael's name anyway affiliated with it, you can do no wrong by picking it up. Be it his cookbooks, product lines, restaurant, etc. Same holds true with this, lesser

known (sadly), work. It is simply a gorgeous, gorgeous treatise to Napa Valley, and as a San Francisco native now living far away from home, I treasure this book. I find that I probably cannot muster together the adequate words to do it justice, but at this price (Bargain priced now), definitely get it. You will not regret it.

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