

Book Norbert Latruffe, L'Harmattan, editor, Paris 2018

Why vine and wine are magical and eternal

Abstract

Why a new book on wine? With a tremendous literature on the topic since Hippocrate, is there still any novelty? Naturally, the author is convinced of it, especially when it comes to the subjects of wine and health and of wine and society, which have been scarcely discussed, probably due to the controversy that may surround them. These issues cannot be treated independently of a wider context including history, culture and socio-economic aspects of vine and wine. In addition, this book goes further, recalling that the vineyards and winemakers are like magicians as they offer an unlimited variety of wine allowing the association of senses, nutrition and hedonism.

While during many years the author has developed researches on the bio-active wine molecules, this book is not simply a compilation of scientific papers, which would have been hard to understand for non-specialists. To overcome this, the author tried to make accessible to passionate or even simply curious readers, this cultural element which has been existing for several millenniums already. The book explains « why the vine and the wine are magical and eternal » and is organized as follows: History of vine and wine during 7,000 years; Vitis, an adaptable plant thanks to a large variety of cepages; Wine, an alchemie with unique properties; Wine, a rich and unique composition in terms of polyphenols (anti-oxidants); Wine and health and nutrition, the French Paradox; Resveratrol, a magical wine polyphenol; Wine is present everywhere in western societies; The economics of vine and wine is inevitable; A constellation of vine regions and rural accents; From famous wines and local wines to gastronomy; Wine is unique compared to other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; A huge net of administrative and technical centers, training centers and associations; Reflections on the history of vine and wine which is associated with humanity.