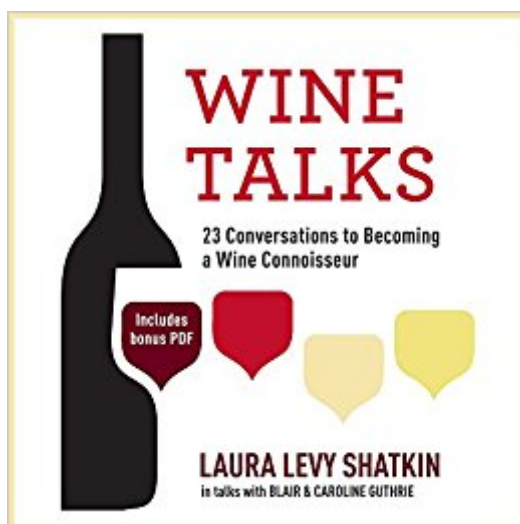


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# Wine Talks: 23 Conversations To Becoming A Wine Connoisseur



## Synopsis

[Presented by Laura Levy Shatkin] [Includes Bonus PDF: Wine Talks Table of Contents; Addendum: SommTalks.com Wine Tastings with the Pros] Thank you for selecting Wine Talks on your journey to learning about wine. We know that the most effective learning and appreciation comes through interactions. Rather than craft a book of written words on wine, of which there are many, we have opted to educate you through live conversations. We discuss wine from many angles so you'll walk away with a solid grasp on how it's made and how to buy it, all the way to how to taste for maximum enjoyment. We break wine down by regions across the globe, from the New World to the Old World, with a point of reference in France, where most grapes have their humble beginnings. With the help of a few experts along the way, I talk with winemakers Blair & Caroline Guthrie about trendy wines that the restaurant Sommelier's favor from offbeat regions to explaining why Napa Valley, one of the smallest regions in the world, continues to spawn cult wines that collectors can't get enough of. We help you understand the primary flavors of each popular grape varietal and how they express so differently in various parts of the world. It's what makes wine so much fun: there's always something new to try. We also chat about the important aspects of serving wine, along with stemware, handling and storing for aging or just for tomorrow. We discuss the styles of wine, distinguishing by body and flavor, not just by color white or red, and the fundamentals of food and wine pairing. Finally, we invite you to our dinner party where you can sit back and listen to how and why certain wine styles work with particular food styles. It's a guideline that will help you find the wines you like with foods you eat regularly. We then encourage you to have a similar party and your own group discussion to discover what you like best. Then please send in your newfound wine and food pairings to us. We'd love your feedback. Our addendum is full of wine tastings with the pros recast from Podcast SommTalks.com. These put some of the lessons you've learned in Wine Talks into full action. You're only 23 conversations away from being a wine connoisseur. Cheers and grab a glass!

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: L-Squared Productions and Blackstone Audio; Audio Presentation MP3CD edition (April 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1538433591

ISBN-13: 978-1538433591

Package Dimensions: 6 x 5.4 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #984,065 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Books on CD >

Cooking, Food & Wine #874 in Books > Books on CD > Nonfiction #893 in Books >

Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Wine

## Customer Reviews

Laura Levy Shatkin, a veteran multimedia journalist and certified sommelier, has spent the past eighteen years crafting fascinating stories on food, wine, spirits, and travel. After a decade as restaurant critic and wine guru at Chicago Reader, Laura moved into broadcast TV and video with WineTasteTV.com and Taste on NBC5 Chicago. She was nominated for a Peter Lisagor Journalism Award, nominated for a daytime Emmy, and is now a freelance content creator in traditional media, digital media, and podcasting. She currently contributes to the Chicago Tribune, Somm Journal, Chicago Sun-Times, Napa/Sonoma magazine and About Town magazine, San Diego. Most recently, in 2016, Ms. Shatkin launched the popular wine and craft food scene podcast SommTalks.com, which is on iTunes and TuneIn Radio. Globetrotters and Winemakers Blair and Caroline Guthrie established their own label in 2013 Guthrie Family Wines and also make the wines for their family winery Stewart Cellars in Yountville California.

This is such a great resource for anyone who likes, loves, drinks, or buys wine, no matter how knowledgeable (or not) you already are on the subject! Laura is a great host and has assembled an impressive line-up of experts in the field, who talk about everything wine-related, from soil to table, including the labor and financial requirements of winemaking, the nitty-gritty details of different regional and varietal wines, current wine trends and what to look out for, and just simple wine tasting etiquette. I've been to several regions of the California wine country, and done tastings many times in several different settings (and countries), but I still found that I learned something (and often several things) new in each chapter. I particularly enjoyed the bits with Caroline and Blair Guthrie, a young and emerging wine-making powerhouse couple, who compliment each other perfectly and whose shared passion for wine really shines through. They bring just the right balance of artistry, science, and realism to the job, that shows their expertise (they are the "real deal"), yet makes them incredibly relatable--an important recipe for easy and engaged listening.

3.5 Stars Honestly this is just a collection of podcasts about the basics wine from two napa winemakers' perspectives. I thought this would be a bit more detailed in specific techniques, styles, and regions, but it seemed like they created this for folks brand new to wine. Like they didn't want to scare people off or something. As soon as they began to dive deep into an interesting topic, they would sort of halt and say "well this is getting super geeky now" and stop fully elaborating on the science, technique, or terminology and just gloss over it. No guys. Please, be geeky. That's why I'm buying a book full of interviews with winemakers. For now, I can get plenty of interview-like content elsewhere through excellent podcasts like "I'll Drink to That" and "Guild of Sommeliers" and even the author's podcast "SommTalks." For newbies, this is fine if you want something that's conversational and easy, but if you are looking for anything beyond the absolute basics, I would look elsewhere.

Where can you go to hear live conversations about everything you ever wanted to learn about wine? This format is so approachable and straight forward and best of all, you can listen any where and anytime. Reading a book is not as much fun as just plugging in earbuds. Laura is an entertaining host that gets her subjects talking both casually and expertly, providing so much valuable information. Blair and Caroline Guthrie, a young up-and-coming wine couple are equally as engaging. While they are clearly experts, they present the wine info in a lively and enticing manner. What are the differences between grapes, wines parts of the world, type of glasses to use? They answer all of these questions here, in this digital format. It's a must have, especially for millennial wine lovers trying to learn more, but not feel overwhelmed.

I love Laura's insight to wine and the world. This book can not be missed if you enjoy wine like I do!

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