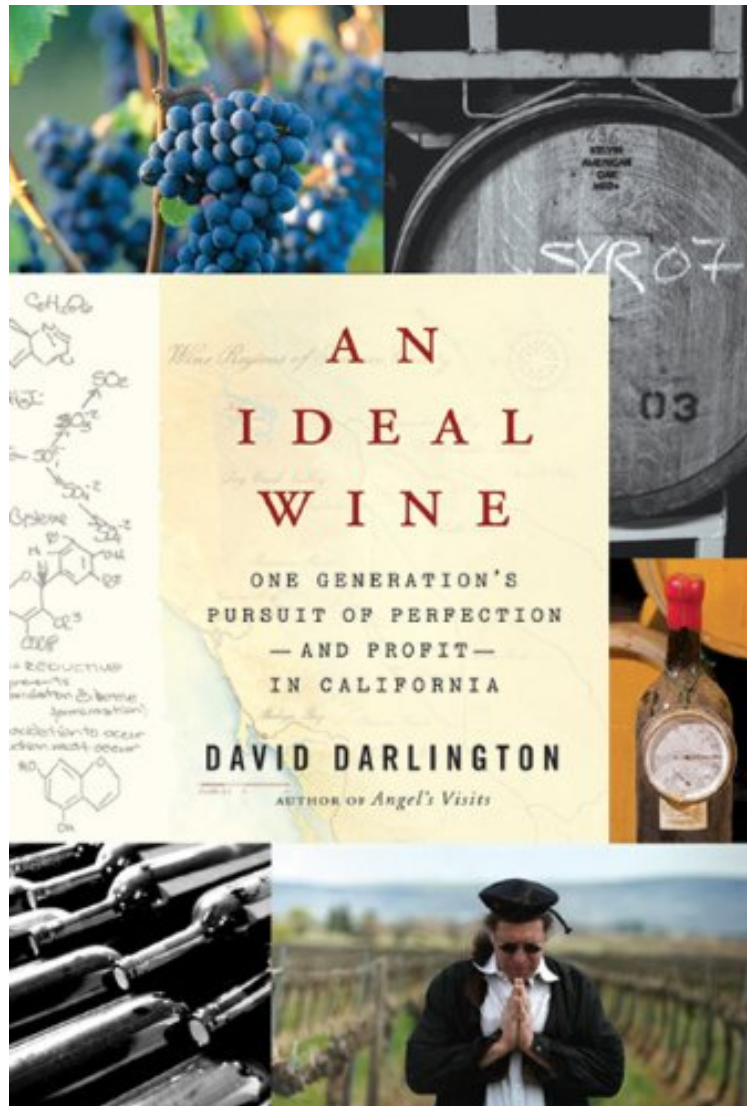


An Ideal Wine: One Generation's Pursuit of Perfection - and Profit - in California

David Darlington

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David Darlington : An Ideal Wine: One Generation's Pursuit of Perfection - and Profit - in California before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Ideal Wine: One Generation's Pursuit of Perfection - and Profit - in California:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Eye-OpenerBy Bill TaylorI hardly EVER review books in , but I absolutely MUST say something about this one. If you are interested in California wines, this is a "must read." It's a real eyeopener if you aren't aware of how modern, corporate wine is made. It doesn't just talk about two people, as some other reviewers have intimated; it covers a LOT of ground about quite a few people in the wine industry (many

of whom, I'm sure you will have heard of before) and about the varied philosophies of wine making, including biodynamic vineyards and wine production. It's a very engaging read *IF* you are fairly serious about your interest in California wine. As a result of reading this book, we're going to start looking for and buying California wines that have been produced outside of a corporate philosophy. (Not really for a first-time or very casual reader about wine-making)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **NATURAL WINE LIVES!**By Doc VinoMy most important takeaway is that great wine is grown somewhere that lends it soul to the grapes, with traditional methods a winemaker then coaxes a magnificent beverage that can transform the spirit. The romance of wine will never leave, hope springs wherever people put nature over profits. Some may try and use technology to overcome vineyard limitations and many are driven by greed. The exciting producers are going back to natural methods and I believe this will only be more important with fine wine drinkers going forward. This book should be required reading for ANYONE who has ever bought a bottle of wine, it is truly an epiphany inducing read that transcends just wine. The author masterfully skips between winemakers so as to compare and contrast methods and philosophies. I have visited the Benziger Winery (a champion of Natural Wine) mentioned in the book and it is the closest I have been to Eden! A great intro to Biodynamics (sustainable farming) this book is a MASTERWORK documenting the collision of art, commerce and personalities in the world of wine! A MUST READ!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **The Best Book on Wine in the Last Decade**By P. StrayerFun to read, enlightening, and hitting the bullseye - this is a great read for anyone, not just wine lovers. A writer first and a raconteur of the wine world second, Darlington artfully and gently unmasks modern winemaking's dirty little secrets, with a beguiling tale of the chemical manipulations for sale by Enologix, the subject of Darlington's Sunday NYTimes magazine piece (which won Darlington a James Beard award for writing) used by more than 1,000 (many Napa) wineries in California to game the wine critics' rating systems. Equally humorous is the quest for true terroir, as exemplified by the Bonny Doon's charismatic philosopher/creative writing genius Randall Grahm. This book is sure to become a classic, just as Darlington's other books have - I also recommend *Angels Visits*, about zinfandel. You need not care about zinfandel to enjoy it. *An Ideal Wine* is an artful kiss and tell about the wine industry in California - a story anyone (not just wine lovers) can heartily enjoy.

From David Darlington, author of the acclaimed *Angels' Visits* (published in paperback as *Zin*), comes an inside look at how a handful of visionary winemakers has transformed—and been transformed by—the California wine industry over the past four decades. In the tradition of *The Widow Clicquot* and *The Billionaire's Vinegar*, Darlington's *An Ideal Wine* is a fascinating, lively tale of vision and daring, of business and politics, of nature and culture, and of the unlikely birth of a multi-billion dollar industry.

From the Back Cover From the author of the acclaimed *Angels' Visits* comes an inside look at how a handful of ingenious winemakers has transformed—and been transformed by—the California wine industry over the past four decades. In the 1970s, a group of idealistic baby boomers was attracted to the seemingly romantic world of winemaking. Over the course of nearly forty years, however—as competition from abroad increased, wine eclipsed beer and spirits as American adults' beverage of choice, critics came to control the marketplace, and corporatization took over the industry—these young aesthetes would learn that wine is an unforgiving business. They would have to be clever to survive in an increasingly cutthroat atmosphere, and no one was more innovative than Randall Grahm of Bonny Doon Vineyard—the court jester and bleeding conscience of California wine, its most original and amusing figure. But Grahm is only one of the restless visionaries who, having chosen wine as the vehicle through which to fulfill their dreams, ended up changing the rules of the industry by adapting to its demands. From high technology to hardball entrepreneurship, from handicapping scores to holistic farming, each vintner operates by his or her own definition of an ideal wine. In this lively, sweeping account that spans the early seventies to the present day, David Darlington employs a sharp journalistic eye to profile a group of wine pioneers. A tale of vision and disillusion, brinksmanship and pragmatism, nature and business, politics and culture, *An Ideal Wine* is a fascinating look at an ever-evolving industry that reflects the values of our society and our civilization.

About the Author David Darlington is the author of four books: *In Condor Country*, *Angels' Visits* (published in paperback as *Zin*), *The Mojave*, and *Area 51*. A special correspondent for *Wine Spirits* and a recipient of a 2008 James Beard Foundation Award for Writing on Spirits, Wine, or Beer, he also won a National Magazine Award for Public Interest in 2009. He lives in Berkeley and Mendocino County, California.