

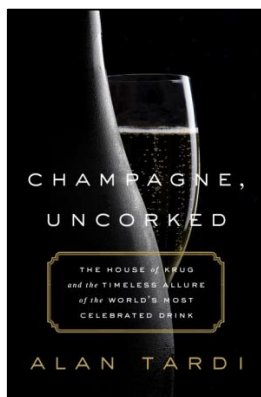
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CHAMPAGNE, UNCORKED

THE HOUSE of KRUG and the TIMELESS ALLURE
of the WORLD'S MOST CELEBRATED DRINK

ALAN TARDI



In CHAMPAGNE, UNCORKED, award-winning wine writer Alan Tardi takes a deep dive into the world of Champagne, following one of the most prestigious producers—Krug—through the entire process of creating a classic champagne cuvée, from extensive visits with the chef de cave to vineyards and vigneron throughout the region, to harvest and fermentation of all the individual lots, then into the inner sanctum of the tasting room as the oenology team evaluates hundreds of still wines, culminating in the unique blend of the 2013-based Grande Cuvée, followed by second fermentation, extended maturation in the Krug cellars and eventual release. Intertwined with this narrative is an exploration of the evocative history, quirky origins, and cultural significance of Champagne, from early beginning to the present day.

“Knowledgeable and meticulously researched...[Tardi] takes the reader through the whole process, from picking and pressing the grapes—the vendange—through the storing, tasting and blending of the wine to its bottling and aging... A colorful history of Champagne.”

—**Moira Hodgson, Wall Street Journal**

“A page-turner that offers up the wine’s history, the characters who made it and, with appealing intimacy, those of the House of Krug from top to bottom. It is a must read for any Champagne lover and of course for ‘Krugistes.’”

—**Stephen Spurrier, consulting editor of Decanter**

“Sparkles with information about the beverage of celebration... You’ll want to make a pilgrimage to Le Mesnil-sur-Oger.”—**Newsday**

“In Tardi’s fabulous new book, he explains the history of the Champagne region and why the land produces the grapes it does... while weaving together a rich cultural overview of the sparkling elixir’s wild rise to becoming the world’s symbol of celebration.”—**San Antonio Express-News**

“A book as effervescent and fascinating as the product it describes.”—**Galveston County Daily News**

“Part memoir and part history, Tardi’s love letter to champagne can inspire the reader to delve deeper into viticulture.”—**Booklist, Starred Review**

“A rare and thoughtful glimpse behind the scenes of one of Champagne’s elite producers, illuminating the complex and intricate processes of Grande Cuvée’s creation in an alluring, eloquent and erudite manner. This is one of the best books to ever be written about champagne, and it should be on the reading list of anyone interested in wine.”

—**Peter Liem, Champagneguide.net**

“Tardi is a truly gifted writer, not only teaching us, but weaving a story that is fascinating and illuminating.”

—**Ed McCarthy, author of Champagne For Dummies**

“Thoughtful and reflective, yet with a fine sense of the ridiculous, Alan is the ideal narrator to take us through the world of Champagne.”—**Michael Edwards, author of The Finest Wines of Champagne**

“Champagne, Uncorked packs an enormous amount of detail and complexity (historical, chemical, biological, emotional) into a rather small package—a fitting tribute to the nuance and complexity found in every glass of champagne Krug has produced... A fascinating and detailed history.”

—**Shelf Awareness**

“An unprecedented look into the process of crushing grapes, fermenting, tasting, blending, bottling, and aging that leads to the Krug Grande Cuvée, one of the most prestigious non-vintage champagnes on the market... Compelling and interesting.”—**Publishers Weekly**

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