

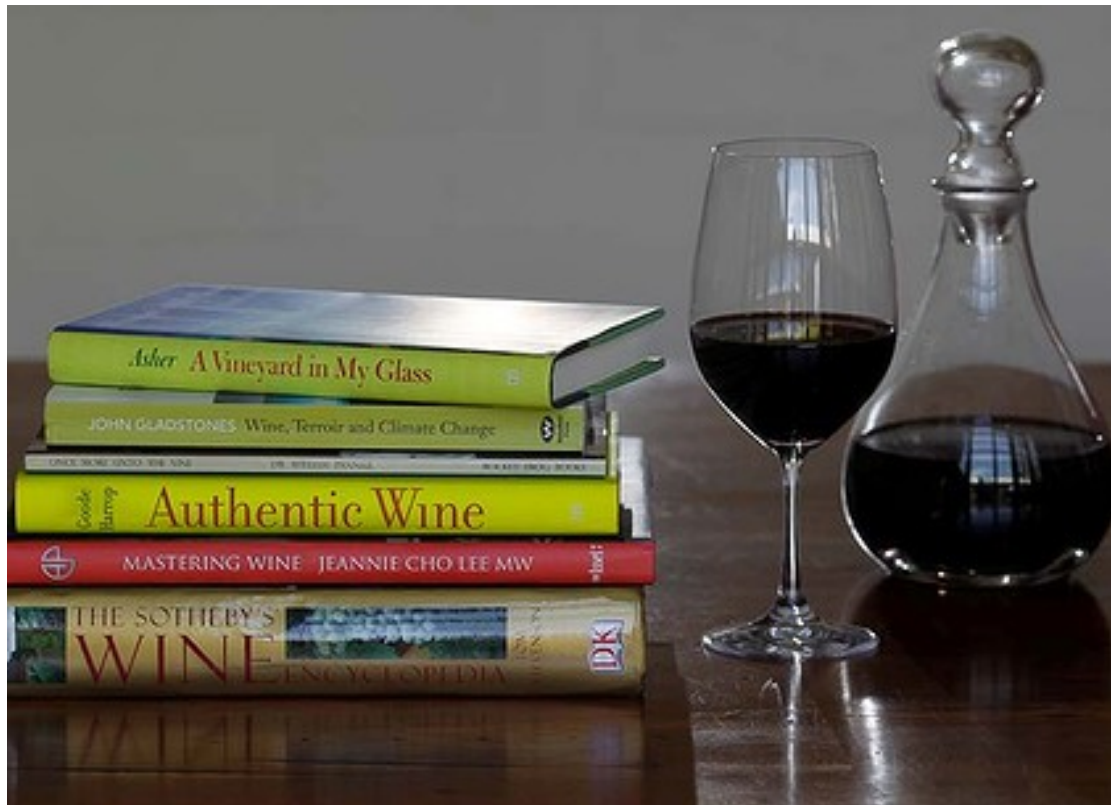


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A good year, cover to cover

Huon Hooke

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There's nothing quite like sitting down with a fine drop and a good book, except maybe sitting down with a good book about fine drops.

It may have been a wet and dodgy year for wine but it's been a good year for wine books.

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Mastering Wine for the Asian Palate by Jeannie Cho Lee is a different take on the big, coffee-table-type wine book. It's a good introduction for wine tyros but also as a refresher for the well seasoned. Its big departure point is its cultural view. Lee is a South Korean-born Hong Kong resident and Asia's first Master of Wine.

Wine books and wine talk have always been Eurocentric and her intent is to put an Asian angle on wine, especially the language used to describe it.

Hence, dragon fruit, ginkgo nut, wolfberries, nori and dried bonito flakes appear in her tasting notes for the classic wines of the world, where hitherto blackberries and truffles did the job. It's an excellent and beautifully presented book.

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Mastering Wine for the Asian Palate

By Jeannie Cho Lee, Asset Publishing & Research Ltd. It is hard to obtain but available from Crow Books, Perth, for \$89.99 (postage to eastern states \$7.50) or Amazon where it's \$US77.