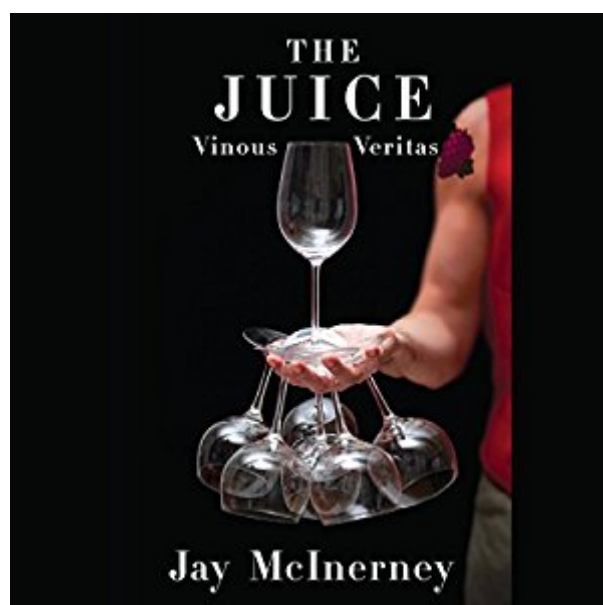


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# The Juice: Vinous Veritas



## Synopsis

This new collection by the acclaimed novelist and, according to Salon, "the best wine writer in America" is generous and far-reaching, deeply knowledgeable and often hilarious. For more than a decade, Jay McInerney's vinous essays, now featured in The Wall Street Journal, have been praised by restaurateurs ("Filled with small courses and surprising and exotic flavors, educational and delicious at the same time" Mario Batali), by esteemed critics ("Brilliant, witty, comical, and often shamelessly candid and provocative" Robert M. Parker Jr.), and by the media ("His wine judgments are sound, his anecdotes witty, and his literary references impeccable" The New York Times). Here McInerney provides a master class in the almost infinite varieties of wine and the people and places that produce it all the world over, from the historic past to the often confusing present. From such legendary châteaux as Margaux and Latour and Palmer to Australia and New Zealand and South Africa, to new contenders in Santa Rita Hills and Paso Robles, we learn about terroir and biodynamic viticulture, what Champagnes are affordable (or decidedly not), even what to drink over 37 courses at Ferran Adrià's El Bulli - in all, an array of grapes and wine styles that is comprehensive and thirst inducing. And conspicuous throughout is McInerney's trademark flair and expertise, which in 2006 prompted the James Beard Foundation to grant him the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Jay McInerney first started writing a column on wine for "House & Garden" (he now writes

one for the "Wall Street Journal"), I thought it a rather shallow marketing ploy. What could Mr. Bright Lights know about the sophisticated subtleties of wine? But the occasional columns I read proved McInerney to be knowledgeable and his writing was fresh and enjoyable. So I bought and then read and enjoyed his two previous collections of wine columns: "A Hedonist in the Cellar" (2007) and "Bacchus and Me" (2002). Both helped keep me in touch with the world of wine. THE JUICE is more of the same -- about fifty pieces, averaging around five pages each, on assorted wine topics: from specific wine varietals (e.g., viognier), to important figures of the wine trade from history and the present (e.g., Frank Schoonmaker and Becky Wasserman), to specific wine regions (e.g., Santa Rita Hills and Cornas), to viticultural philosophies (e.g., biodynamics), to specific wines (e.g., Ch. Latour), to the broader world of gastronomy (e.g., Ferran Adrià and El Bulli). THE JUICE is not a "from A to Z" wine encyclopedia. It is inherently scattershot in what it has to tell about the world of wine. Yet both the neophyte and the connoisseur could learn a fair amount from browsing through the book. McInerney emphasizes more the sensory aspects of drinking various and sundry wines than he does the science (or art) of making them - that is, he concentrates more on the product than he does the production. What distinguishes the book is McInerney's accessible style - relaxed, hip, never stuffy (though occasionally pretentious), and often witty. Here is an example from the piece on traditional Spanish Riojas: "Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against fruit.

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