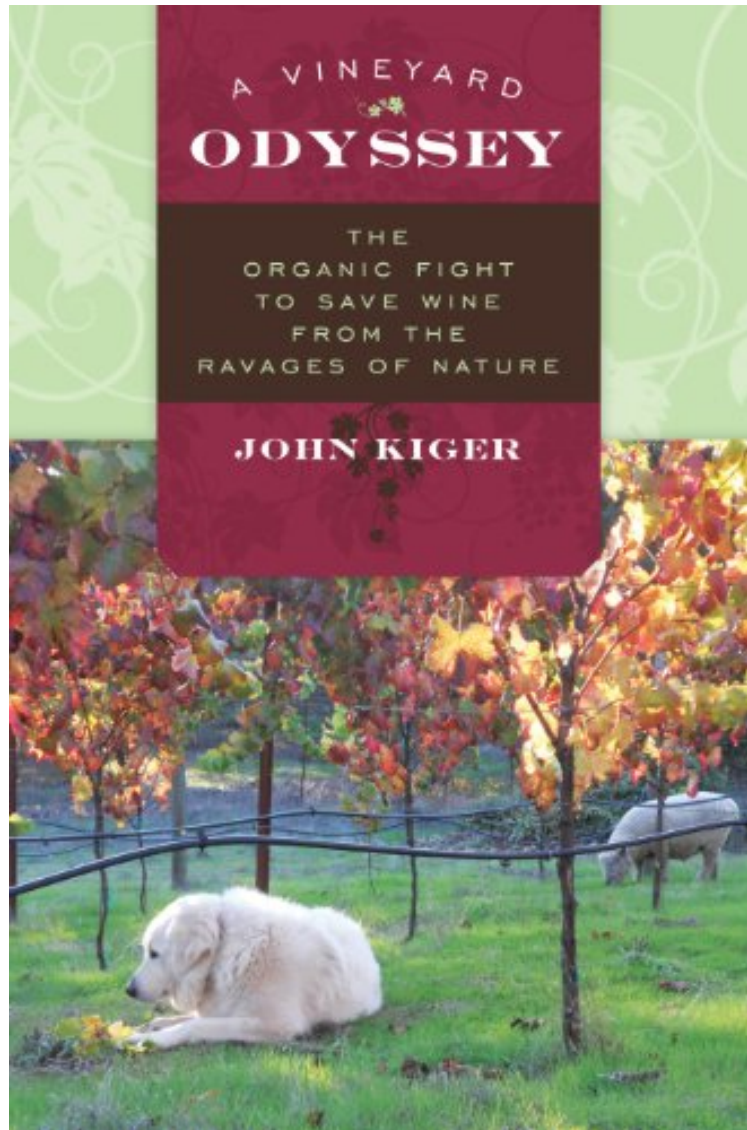


[Free] A Vineyard Odyssey: The Organic Fight to Save Wine from the Ravages of Nature

A Vineyard Odyssey: The Organic Fight to Save Wine from the Ravages of Nature

John Kiger

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John Kiger : A Vineyard Odyssey: The Organic Fight to Save Wine from the Ravages of Nature before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Vineyard Odyssey: The Organic Fight to Save Wine from the Ravages of Nature:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Exciting Ride Through a Vineyard By RSI didn't think I'd enjoy the book as much as I did. I wanted to read it because we now live in wine country--Sonoma Valley, where the author lives and grows grapes. But I was drawn into it, and suddenly it became a good read. I wondered, at first, about the

audience he was trying to reach, and at the end I concluded that anyone who appreciated a glass of wine, and even better if you live in Sonoma County, should be a potential reader. Like me. The book was a creative blend of personal and technical observations. I did skip some of the technical, but I can probably recite most of the issues covered in that category. The personal commitment and passion were obvious and convincing. "All Out War" (on a vine threat) had me by the throat. Wait, I kept saying, this is non-fiction, so relax, but I couldn't. The book broadened my view on grape growing, in fact it opened my eyes to it. We love to "look at vineyards" when driving around our valley. Now I want to stop and inspect them for powdery mildew, pests, and to make sure the canopy is properly opened for air and light, as John Kiger taught me. The chapter on the four modes of farming was enlightening. Beyond "conventional," they had previously all run together for me. The differences are still a bit blurred, but I'm much closer to understanding, especially that "organic" is not as simple as it sounds. I can't imagine there is much more to tell me about grapes and vineyard, but if there is more, John Kiger could do it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Odyssey: From Vineyard to wine glass
By Marc Epstein
Everyone has his own American dream. Owning a vineyard, for many, sits atop that list. John Kiger takes us on a personal journey from Silicon Valley engineer to grape farmer to wine maker while educating us about the rigors, disasters, and joys of recreating your life around your passions. There are three groups of people who should read this book:***The aspiring farmer (of any crop)***The aspiring winemaker who longs for an organic crop***And any individual who wants to reinvent him/her self
John tells amusing stories of his Noah's ark of animals including sheep, cats, and dogs while weaving in technical details of wine, grape growing, mildew, and his evolving philosophy of organic farming.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. my book is still to be read because I am a busy homesteader - but so glad I bought this book and know it will be ...
By alex p.
Truly a book for sitting out in summer with ones own livestock guardian dogs and sheep - watching the grapes turn purple...my book is still to be read because I am a busy homesteader - but so glad I bought this book and know it will be a GOOD read. (and I'm sure educational)

A Vineyard Odyssey is a fascinating saga of winemaking; the journey from vine to bottle; that takes the reader on a travelogue of the many hazards that lie along the way. John Kiger tracks the nefarious denizens of the vineyard world: the host of insects, fungi, bacteria, and viruses, along with the feathered and furry critters, that lurk in vineyards. All are capable of sabotaging a promising vintage right under the nose of an unsuspecting grower. Yet rather than responding with toxic chemicals, Kiger explains how an organic approach to cultivation can conquer or at least contain them. Highlighting the many hazards of nature that lie hidden in any vintage, the author tells the story of a winegrower and an organic philosophy that guides the annual struggle to coax great wine from a steep hillside and a few thousand vines. Combining history, science, technology, and personal experience, this book vividly brings to life the hard-fought battles behind the wines we savor.

From Booklist
Although the strategy of raising wine grapes organically appears to be simple enough; no man-made chemicals; executing these principles in a vineyard, particularly one under threat from fungi such as powdery mildew, may prove daunting. As the French discovered with the nineteenth century's phylloxera, whole vineyards can perish from the effects of a single pest. California vintner Kiger was determined to see his wines handled under organic protocols from vine through bottle. Leaving his Silicon Valley career, he and his wife took some courses and decided to personally husband a vineyard through all its seasons save for the actual harvesting, when they would hire pickers. They at once began the long process of converting from conventional vine management to total organic production. Kiger's battle with powdery mildew alone stretched his resources, and other afflictions, including animals, proved no less challenging. Vineyard owners may profit from Kiger's recounting of his struggles.

--Mark Knoblauch
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Armed with little more than good intentions, husband and wife John and Deb Kiger said goodbye to corporate life and set about turning their four acres of meadow into a vineyard in 2002. Like many before them who had leapt before they looked, the Kigers soon discovered the prospect to involve much more work and complication than they had imagined, as they were soon forced to abandon the romance of owning a vineyard and roll up their sleeves, battling fungus and mildew that continually threatened their yield. It's a drop in a near-endless tide of memoirs written by folks who left Big Business in order to get their hands dirty; this time focused on viticulture, made even more complicated by the owners' desire to produce wine as

organically as possible. There are pleasant digressions, but all roads lead to fungus as Kiger recounts the various methods he employed in an effort to get the agricultural upper hand. Those interested in the logistics of vineyard operations and advocates of green farming will find Kiger's experience to be insightful. (Publishers Weekly) John's naturally inquisitive, high-tech nature and Southern charm are exactly what he brings to his grape growing: the right amount of smarts, common sense, humor, and joy. If you've been bitten by the wine bug and want to jump in, and you think you know it all—or nothing at all—then this is a must read. John's thorough research into day-to-day, perplexing organic farming will challenge the weathered veteran grower and give confidence to the weekend farmer alike. Salute! (Bob Biale, Robert Biale Vineyards) A Vineyard Odyssey is an entertaining and educational trip through the world of organic wine growing. John Kiger combines his knowledge and experience gained since becoming a Sonoma County grape grower with a witty style to bring organic vineyards to life. In the process, he uncovers many little-known facts along with amusing anecdotes that will appeal to wine enthusiasts of all stripes, while engaging and informing his fellow winegrowers as well. (Nick Frey, Sonoma County Winegrape Commission) About the Author John Kiger left a successful high-tech career in Silicon Valley to follow his passion for fine wine by becoming a full-time winegrower. He and his wife, Deb, own and operate Kiger Family Vineyard in Sonoma Valley, where they follow organic and sustainable winegrowing practices.