

WINE QUOTES

- If all be true that I do think,
There are five reasons
we should drink:

Good wine -
A friend -
Or being dry -
Or lest we should be, by and by -
Or any other reason why!
- Henry Aldrich 1647-1710
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- "Penicillin cures, but wine makes people happy." --- Alexander Fleming (1881-1955), the Scottish bacteriologist credited with discovering Penicillin in 1928.
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- "Wine is the most civilized thing in the world." --- Ernest Hemingway.
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- "Wine improves with age. The older I get, the better I like it." --- Anonymous
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- "Compromises are for relationships, not wine." --- Sir Robert Scott Caywood
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- "Beer is made by men, wine by God!" --- Martin Luther
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- "Drinking good wine with good food in good company is one of life's most civilized pleasures."--
- Michael Broadbent
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- "Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance." ---
Benjamin Franklin
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- [at his first sip of champagne] "Come quickly! I am tasting stars!" --- Dom Perignon
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- "Men are like wine - some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age." --- Pope John XXIII
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- "Alonso of Aragon was wont to say in commendation of age, that 'age appears to be best in four things - old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read.'" --- Francis Bacon, 1624
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- "I cook with wine; sometimes I even add it to the food." --- W. C. Fields
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- "Wine is life." --- Petronius, Roman writer
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- "He who aspires to be a serious wine drinker must drink claret." ("claret" is the British term for red Bordeaux) --- Samuel Johnson
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- "Nothing makes the future look so rosy as to contemplate it through a glass of Chambertin." ---
Napoleon
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- "No nation is drunken where wine is cheap, and none sober where the dearness of wine substitutes ardent spirits as the common beverage." --- Thomas Jefferson
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- "Gentlemen, in the little moment that remains to us between the crisis and the catastrophe, we may as well drink a glass of Champagne." --- Paul Claudel

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- "Life is too short to drink bad wine." --- Anonymous
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- "Clearly, the pleasures wines afford are transitory – but so are those of the ballet, or of a musical performance. Wine is inspiring and adds greatly to the joy of living." --- Napoleon
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- "Wine cheers the sad, revives the old, inspires the young, makes weariness forget his toil." --- Lord Byron
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- "I love everything that's old: old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine." --- Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*
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- "Wine ... offers a greater range for enjoyment and appreciation than possibly any other purely sensory thing which may be purchased." --- Ernest Hemingway
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- "My only regret in life is that I did not drink more Champagne." --- John Maynard Keynes
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- "[Making wine] is like having children; you love them all, but boy, are they different." --- Bunny Finkelstein (co-owner of Judd's Hill Winery)
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- "Wine... the intellectual part of the meal." --- Alexandre Dumas, 1873
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- "Wine brings to light the hidden secrets of the soul, gives being to our hopes, bids the coward flight, drives dull care away, and teaches new means for the accomplishment of our wishes." --- Horace
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- "And wine can of their wits the wise beguile, make the sage frolic, and the serious smile." --- Alexander Pope
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- "A bottle of wine begs to be shared; I have never met a miserly wine lover." --- Clifton Fadiman
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- When it comes to wine, I tell people to throw away the vintage charts and invest in a corkscrew. The best way to learn about wine is the drinking. --- Alexis Lichine
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- "If food is the body of good living, wine is its soul." --- Clifton Fadiman
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- "And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard." --- Genesis 9:20
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- "So life's year begins and closes;
Days though shortening still can shine;
What though youth gave love and roses;
Age still leaves us friends and wine."
---Thomas Moore
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- "A bottle of good wine, like a good act, shines ever in the retrospect" --- Robert Louis Stevenson
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- The first written reference to Champagne was English, not French! In 1676, Etherege wrote in praise of "sparkling Champagne" which "Quickly recovers / Poor laughing lovers, / Makes us frolic and gay, / and drowns all our sorrows." The use of the adjective "sparkling" implies that some time prior to this the wines of the Champagne district were not necessarily sparkling.
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- "I have enjoyed great health at a great age because everyday since I can remember, I have consumed a bottle of wine except when I have not felt well. Then I have consumed two bottles." --- Attributed to a Bishop of Seville
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- "The wine-cup is the little silver well,
Where truth, if truth there be, doth dwell."
--- William Shakespeare
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- "It takes a lot of beer to make good wine." --- Lou Preston, Preston Vineyards
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- "Wine makes every meal an occasion, every table more elegant, every day more civilized." --- André Simon
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- "I serve your Beaune to my friends, but your Volnay I keep for myself." --- Voltaire
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- When asked whether he ever confused a Bordeaux with a Burgundy in a blind tasting, British wine legend Harry Waugh replied: "Not since lunch."
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- "Within the bottle's depths, the wine's soul sang one night. --- Charles Baudelaire, French poet and critic
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- "My dear girl, there are some things that are just not done, such as drinking Dom Perignon '53 above the temperature of 38° Fahrenheit." --- James Bond in Ian Fleming's *Goldfinger*
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- "Wine rejoices the heart of man and joy is the mother of all virtues" --- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1771
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- "Wine is at the head of all medicines; where wine is lacking, drugs are necessary." - Babylonian Talmud: Baba Bathra
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- "Forsake not an old friend; for the new is not comparable to him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with pleasure." --- Apocrypha, Ecclesiasticus 9:10
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- "During one of my treks through Afghanistan, we lost our corkscrew. We were compelled to live on food and water for several days." --- Cuthbert J. Twillie (W.C. Fields) in *My Little Chickadee*, 1940
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- A man, fallen on hard times, sold his art collection but kept his wine cellar. When asked why he did not sell his wine, he said, "A man can live without art, but not without culture." --- Anonymous
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- "I can certainly see you know your wine. Most of the guests who stay here wouldn't know the difference between Bordeaux and Claret." --- Basil Fawlty (John Cleese) in *Fawlty Towers* ["Claret" is an English term for red Bordeaux.]
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- "We could in the United States make as great a variety of wines as are made in Europe, not exactly of the same kinds, but doubtless as good." --- Thomas Jefferson
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- "Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance." --- Attributed to Benjamin Franklin
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- "In the order named, these are the hardest to control: Wine, Women, and Song." --- Franklin P. Adams, *The Ancient Three*. Dictionary of Quotations, Bergen Evans, 1968.

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- Bessie Braddock, a well-known socialist in England, attended a dinner party at which she was seated next to Winston Churchill who had had quite a bit to drink. She said to him, "Winston, you are drunk!" He replied, "Madame, I may be drunk, but you are ugly, and tomorrow I will be sober."
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- "Never buy the cheapest wine in any category, as its taste may discourage you from going on. The glass, corks, cartons, and labor are about the same for any wine, as are the ocean freight and taxes for imported wines. Consequently, if you spend a little more, you are likely to get a better wine, because the other costs remain fixed. Cheap wine will always be too expensive." --
- Alex Bepaloff, *New Signet Book of Wine*, 1986
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- Before leaving home to serve a one year jail sentence, a "white collar" criminal was quoted as saying, "I'm not worried about the reds; they'll keep OK. But I am worried about the whites." --
- Anonymous.
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- "The peoples of the Mediterranean began to emerge from barbarism when they learnt to cultivate the olive and the vine." --- Thucydides, Greek Historian, 5th century BCE.
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- "The last time that I trusted a dame was in Paris in 1940. She was going out to get a bottle of wine. Two hours later, the Germans marched into France." --- Sam Diamond in *Murder by Death* (1976)
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- The importance of wine shows up early in the Bible: "And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard." --- Genesis 9:20.
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- "I made a mental note to watch which bottle became empty soonest, sometimes a more telling evaluation system than any other." --- Gerald Asher, *On Wine*, 1982
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- "Anyone who tries to make you believe that he knows all about wines is obviously a fake." ---
Leon Adams, *The Commonsense Book of Wine*
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- "Premier Cru" vineyards in Burgundy are those that are considered significantly better than the basic village wines. These vineyards are generally better situated in terms of slope, direction, and soil. Their wines get riper and give wines of greater character and depth.
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- "No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, 'The old is better.'" --- Luke 5:39
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- "This wine is too good for toast-drinking, my dear. You don't want to mix emotions up with a wine like that. You lose the taste." --- Count Mippipopolous in *The Sun Also Rises*, 1926, by Ernest Hemingway
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- "What contemptible scoundrel stole the cork from my lunch?" --- Larson E. Whipsnade (W.C. Fields), *You Can't Cheat an Honest Man* (1939)
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- "Great news!" she said after speaking to our doctor. "I have it on the highest medical authority that you will still be alive in 10 years! You know what this means?" she asked. "Of course I know what it means," I replied. "It means we don't have to drink up all our 1985 and 1986 Château Latour at supper tonight for fear I might die with several outrageously priced wines undrunk. For the first time in years, we can go to bed sober." --- based on Russell Baker, *New York Times*, 12 May 1990.
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- “Wine is a living liquid containing no preservatives. Its life cycle comprises youth, maturity, old age, and death. When not treated with reasonable respect it will sicken and die.” --- Attributed to the late Julia Child.
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- Filmmaker and winemaker Francis Ford Coppola says, “The two professions are almost the same. Each depends on source material and takes a lot of time to perfect. The big difference is that today’s winemakers still worry about quality.”
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- “Hardly did it appear, than from my mouth it passed into my heart.” -- Abbe de Challieu, 1715, upon first tasting Champagne.
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- “Between 5/22/85 and 5/4/88, the French writer Jean-Paul Kauffmann was held chained and often blindfolded in a Beirut basement [by a] Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group. A lover of Bordeaux, Mr. Kauffmann recited daily the list of the 61 greatest chateaux drawn up in 1855. He strove to conjure up the aroma of a Chateau Margaux or a Leoville-Poyferre. Occasionally a small miracle would occur, and the scent of black currants and plum would permeate the dusty heat of Lebanon.” --- Roger Cohen, “Ways of Doing Time,” *New York Times*, 5/4/97.
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- “I know never to take a wine for granted. Drawing a cork is like attendance at a concert or at a play that one knows well, when there is all the uncertainty of no two performances ever being quite the same. That is why the French say, ‘There are no good wines, only good bottles.’” --- Gerald Asher, *On Wine*, 1982.
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- “When men drink, then they are rich and successful and win lawsuits and are happy and help their friends. Quickly, bring me a beaker of wine, so that I may wet my mind and say something clever.” --- Aristophanes, *The Knights*, 424 B. C. E.
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- “She gets to keep the chalet and the Rolls, I want the Montrachet.” --- Anonymous, *Forbes Magazine*, May 6, 1996.
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- “One should write not unskillfully in the running hand, be able to sing in a pleasing voice, and keep good time to music; and, lastly, a man should not refuse a little wine when it is pressed upon him.” --- Yoshida Kenko, *Essays in Idleness*, c. 1340
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- “Before I was born my mother was in great agony of spirit and in a tragic situation. She could take no food except iced oysters and champagne. If people ask me when I began to dance, I reply ‘In my mother’s womb, probably as a result of the oysters and Champagne.’” --- Attributed to Isadora Duncan
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- “Wine makes a man more pleased with himself; I do not say it makes him more pleasing to others.” --- Samuel Johnson, April 28, 1778
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- “That winter two things happened which made me see that the world, the flesh, and the devil were going to be more powerful influences in my life after all than the chapel bell. First, I tasted champagne; second, the theater.” --- Belle Livingstone
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- “We may lay in a stock of pleasures as we would lay in a stock of wine, but if we defer tasting them too long, we shall find that both are soured by age.” -- Charles Caleb Colton
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- Presenting the cork is wine nonsense, a ritual invented by captains and sommeliers. The wine snob doesn’t resent ritual. There is infinite ritual in the etiquette of serving wine. But most of it at least hints at style or purpose. Placing an unsightly cork on the tablecloth hints at absurdity. --- *The Official Guide to Wine Snobbery*, Leonard S. Bernstein, 1982.

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- "There are many wines that taste great, but do not drink well." --- Michael Broadbent.
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- In response to a waiter who had offered him a Bromo Seltzer for a hangover, "Ye Gads, no! I couldn't stand the noise." --- W.C. Fields
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- "Twas Noah who first planted the vine
And mended his morals by drinking its wine." --- Attributed to Benjamin Franklin
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- "In victory, you deserve champagne; in defeat, you need it." --- Many sources, including Kevin Zraly, *Windows on the World Complete Wine Course*, 1997.
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- "Clearly, the pleasures wines afford are transitory, but so are those of the ballet or of a musical performance. Wine is inspiring and adds greatly to the joy of living." --- Napoleon
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- "A [restaurant] wine list is praised and given awards for reasons that have little to do with its real purpose, as if it existed only to be admired passively, like a stamp collection. A wine list is good only when it functions well in tandem with a menu." --- Gerald Asher
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- "Writing in my sixty-fourth year, I can truthfully say that since I reached the age of discretion I have consistently drunk more than most people would say is good for me. Nor did I regret it. Wine has been for me a firm friend and a wise counselor. Often...wine has shown me matters in their true perspective, and has, as though by the touch of a magic wand, reduced great disasters to small inconveniences. Wine has lit up for me the pages of literature and revealed in life romance lurking in the commonplace. Wine has made me bold but not foolish; has induced me to say silly things but not to do them." --- Duff Cooper, *Old Men Forget*.
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- "He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart." --- Psalms 104: 14-15
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- "A man will be eloquent if you give him good wine." --- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Representative Man*
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- "It seems to me that there are three things that have changed in the wine world. First, the wine rich got richer and the wine poor got poorer. By which I mean that wine prices have polarized beyond belief. Twenty years ago I drank the greatest wines of the world all the time. (I was a wine merchant and a restaurateur, and it was my job, darn it.)" --- the late Lee Evans of Australia, 1996.
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- "Wine experts can't resist making predictions. In 1990, wine lover Richard Nixon prophesied that the Chinese would someday match the French in the quality of their wines; this despite a Chinese carte des vins that featured sweet red wine and a grape called Cow's Nipple. In the mid-1980s, a well-known New York wine merchant asserted that an \$8 Cabernet from Chile was as good as Lafite, and auction prices would eventually reflect this little-known fact. Wine coolers too, as I recall, were expected to expose a vast new market to the pleasures of wine drinking. The coolers bombed, [a nice bottle of Lafite will set you back \$250 or more], and Chilean cabernet is still mostly eight bucks." --- Stephen Tanzer, *Forbes*, May 6, 1996
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- "Hemingway is great in that alone of living writers he has saturated his work with the memory of physical pleasure, with sunshine and salt water, with food, wine and making love and the remorse which is the shadow of that sun." --- Cyril Connolly, *The Unquiet Grave*, 1951.
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- "Clearly, the pleasures wines afford are transitory, but so are those of the ballet or of a musical performance. Wine is inspiring and adds greatly to the joy of living." --- Napoleon
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- On drinking the wines of Bordeaux: "The French drink them young, so a Socialist government won't take them. The English drink them old, so they can show their friends cobwebs and dusty bottles. The American drink them exactly when they are ready, because they don't know any better." --- Anonymous
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- "For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red." --- Psalms 75:8
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- Making good wine is a skill; making fine wine is an art. --- Robert Mondavi
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- "I was in love with a beautiful blonde once. She drove me to drink; that's the one thing I'm indebted to her for." --- W. C. Fields in *Never Give a Sucker an Even Break*