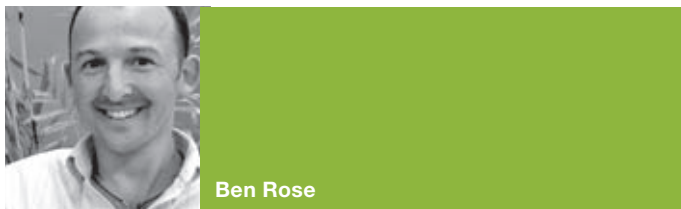


Long-awaited volume of knowledge in print

The Grapevine set to become key industry tome



Ben Rose

Title: *The Grapevine: from the science to the practice of growing vines for wine*

Short title: *The Grapevine*

Authors: Patrick Iland, Peter Dry, Tony Proffitt and Steve Tyerman

THE PREFACE OF *The Grapevine: from the science to the practice of growing vines for wine* states: The objective of this book is to provide a link between scientific principles and the practice of viticulture. It is concerned with providing knowledge, asking questions and stimulating thought and discussion about the growing of grapes for the making of wine.

Messieurs Iland, Dry, Proffitt and Tyerman have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the production of grapes for winemaking and, in this book, they put it all together to

produce what the industry has needed for many years.

In my opinion, there have been three key viticulture books published prior to *The Grapevine*, being *General Viticulture* (Winkler 1974) and *Viticulture Volume 1 & 2* (Coombe and Dry 1999/1992). This book updates the information presented in these titles, but it furthers the knowledge base by providing direct correlation between recent scientific research (both published and unpublished) and practical grapevine husbandry.

The book is written primarily as a key reference for undergraduates and post-graduate students, however, anybody with an interest in growing winegrapes will find this a lasting and much referred to book.

The book takes a logical pathway from domestication of the grapevine, through physiology, including sections on key elements such as berry composition and, then, into the growing environment. Most chapters contain an introduction, body with practical considerations and questions, a chapter summary and copious references and further reading lists.

The 'practical considerations' sections provide snippets of details that I have not before seen published, but which have often been observed in the field and relied upon by consultants.

Questions (and answers) have been provided to stimulate thinking, such as 'Are small berries an advantage for wine quality?' and 'What would an increase in CO₂ concentration mean for grapevine growth?'

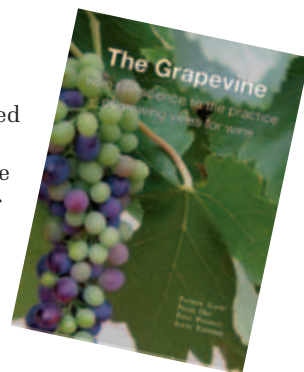
The book is written in a simple to understand language that introduces difficult topics from the start, rather than assuming some level of specific underlying knowledge. The illustrations and figures are pertinent to the discussion and are well-presented with clear explanations. Although the text may not always go into the greatest level of technical detail the book does not propose to do so. Instead, it provides direction to other sources of information where further specifics can be obtained if desired.

If I have one criticism of the book it is this: the information is presented in such a way and with such clarity that any grapegrower could solve many of their problems and issues by reading this book from cover to cover and that may put me out of a job! For my sake, I hope that specific advice on the implementation of the ideas in this book will continue to be required.

In Patrick Iland's speech for the launch of this book he said that when he retired from lecturing he wrote a 'bucket list' of things he wanted to complete, and this book was on the list. With support of his co-authors and many other people Mr Iland has not only "ticked it off the list", he has provided the wine industry with a book that will no doubt become as much a stalwart of the industry as he is.

Price: \$165

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