

The reading room

Evan Harding puts his feet up and checks out the latest offerings in food and drink books.



WINE

Treading Grapes: Walking Through the Vineyards of Tuscany

Rosemary George
Random House
RRP \$54.95

The title says it all. *Treading Grapes* is a journey, exploring Tuscan viticulture in the sort of detail for which UK wine writer Rosemary George is renowned. George, one of the first women to become a Master of Wine and the author of nine books, spent 15 months trekking around the region, tasting some old favourites and getting to know the new colours and flavours – and the people that make them. Complete with tales of her Tuscan experience and recommendations on the major estates, sights to see and the best places to eat, *Treading Grapes* is an entertaining and informative read for all the travel enthusiasts and wine connoisseurs among us.

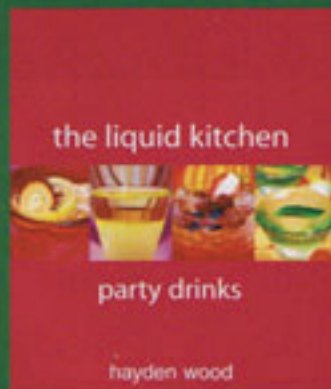


WINE

Varietal Wines

James Halliday
Harper Collins
RRP \$29.95

James Halliday's *Wine Companion* 2005 has already been on the shelves for a few months and it is joined by this in-depth look at all the foremost wine varieties of the world. And we do mean in-depth. Halliday investigates the history and current production of each variety, including where they are grown and the best producers. Then he looks at them from an Australian perspective, delving into the history of the variety here, its characteristics, the region from where each is grown. There are even statistics on wine growth in the last 30 years. This paperback is great as a beginner's guide to all of wine's varieties or as a reference for the experts.



DRINKS

The Liquid Kitchen – Party Drinks

Hayden Wood
Murdoch Books
RRP \$29.95

Coming from world champion bartender and bartending lecturer Hayden Wood, *The Liquid Kitchen* is a collection of interesting and appealing recipes to help get any party started. This Australian based New Zealander has researched all styles – and colours – of drink, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, hot and cold, and new and old. Drinks are listed by method rather than spirit, so regardless of the situation, time or occasion you'll be able to find an exciting drink in no time. It also includes helpful tips and food suggestions. A handy and stylish guide – but then you'd expect nothing less from a former World Flair Bartending Champion.



FOOD

The Cook's Companion

Stephanie Alexander
Penguin
RRP \$125.00

The Cook's Companion is back – even bigger and better than its famous predecessor. The first edition, published in 1996, had almost everything you need to know about Australian produce and cooking. This time, they've removed the 'almost', adding a whopping 400 new pages. Stephanie Alexander brings her wealth of knowledge from 21 years spent running Melbourne restaurant Stephanie's to the table, serving up interesting, valuable and practical information about ingredients, cooking techniques and kitchen equipment. And then there are the hundreds of mouth-watering recipes (complete with side dishes) to help you prepare for your next dinner party.