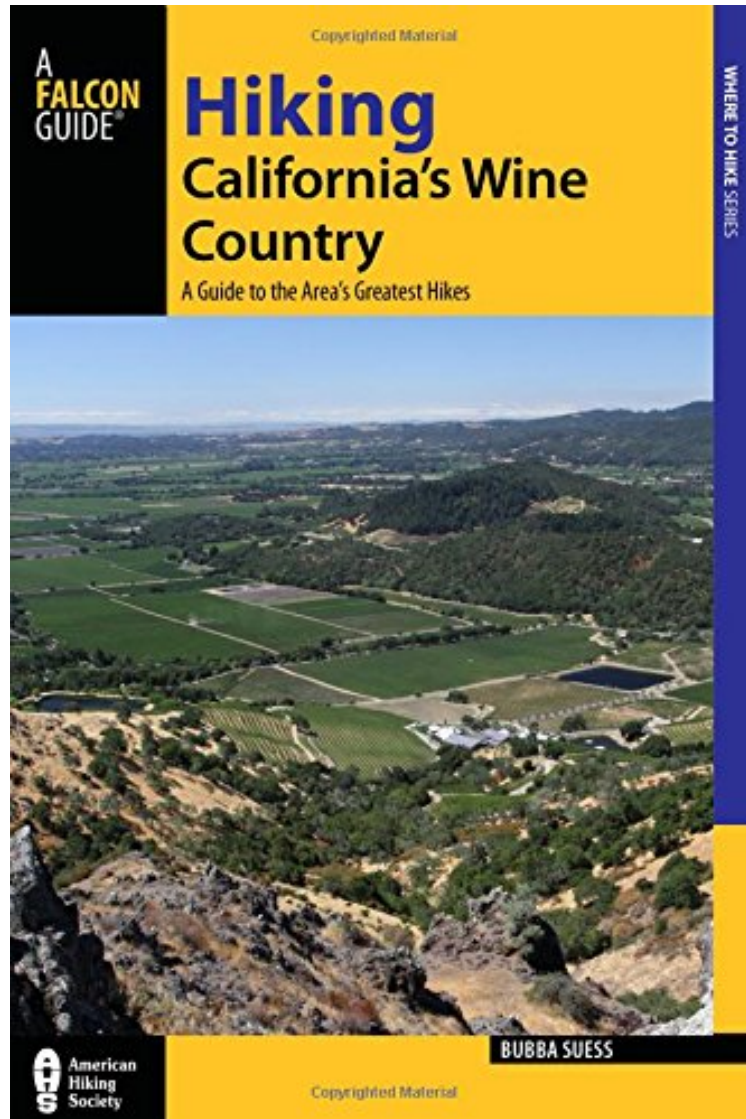


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Hiking California's Wine Country: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Hikes (Regional Hiking Series)

Bubba Suess

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#1363898 in Books 2015-11-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.01 x .63 x 5.981, .0 #File Name: 1493009850304 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Bubba Suess : Hiking California's Wine Country: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Hikes (Regional Hiking Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking California's Wine Country: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Hikes (Regional Hiking Series):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Off Season Hiking at its FinestBy Fritz R. WardBubba Suess is

rapidly becoming a new favorite outdoor author for me. I loved his hiking guide to the Shasta region and this book, covering his childhood home in California's Wine country (basically Napa and Sonoma counties) is equally good. I ordered the book before release and read it within the first week after receiving it. But I held off reviewing it until today, when I had a chance to field test the guide on four separate hikes. I liked what I saw, which given the author's other book is not surprising. But in a sense I was surprised. Napa and Sonoma counties are not exactly prime hiking destinations and for that reason I haven't actually spent a lot of time in this part of the state. Most trails found in traditional hiking guides are located in the half dozen or so state parks that dot these counties, and the area lacks large national parks and forests. Moreover, California parks are notoriously unfriendly to dogs, so I usually just pass through the region on my way to more canine friendly hiking destinations. But although Suess covers these parks in detail (and I was pleasantly surprised to find Annadel state park has some trails dogs can access) what makes this book so worthwhile are the many regional parks and preserves rarely noted by outdoor writers. And some of these are gems. Like the not yet completed Napa River Trail, a part of the similarly incomplete Bay Trail. Suess includes several selections from this trail and I was impressed by all of them. The book also features hikes to the ridge tops that define Napa and Sonoma Valley and offer great fall overlooks. Of course you will want to avoid these trails during the heat of the day in mid summer, but they are worth exploring much of the rest of the year. Like all the books in Falcons "Hiking..." series, this one has glossy pages, an overview map, stunning and sharp photos from each hike, an overview map, detailed route descriptions that average 2-3 pages, GPS trail head coordinates, and lots more. These are beautiful books and I enjoy reading them as much as hiking the trails they describe. Unlike other books in the series, however, all the trails found in this volume are relatively easy. Most of the hikes here are a half day or less, and even those with mild disabilities will be able to explore some of these routes. Yes, you can get a good cardio workout with this book, but the terrain in this area is much gentler than in other parts of the Golden State. Which is why Hiking California's Wine country is such a great addition to a hiker library. It fills an important niche in the off season outdoor hiker recreation library. Shorter days call for more pleasant, shorter, and gentler walks. You will find them here.

Hiking California's Wine Country covers 67 hikes in the area for hikers of all abilities. Up-to-date trail information and miles and directions will be featured throughout, as well as sidebars on local culture, trivia, and wildlife. GPS coordinates are available for all trailheads.

About the Author A native of Sonoma County in California's wine country, Christopher "Bubba" Suess grew up hiking the trails on his home turf as well as those in the famed Sierra Nevada. His first backpacking trip at age five sparked a love affair with granite and rushing water. Deeply influenced by his parents to appreciate the outdoors and by his older brother to always strive and persevere, Bubba was further moved to value the conservation of wilderness during his time in the Boy Scouts. A four year sojourn in Texas for graduate school forced Bubba to find beauty in more subtle places and areas that are generally overlooked. Now a resident of Mount Shasta in far northern California, he loves living a rural life, centered around time spent with his wife, Harmony, and three children.