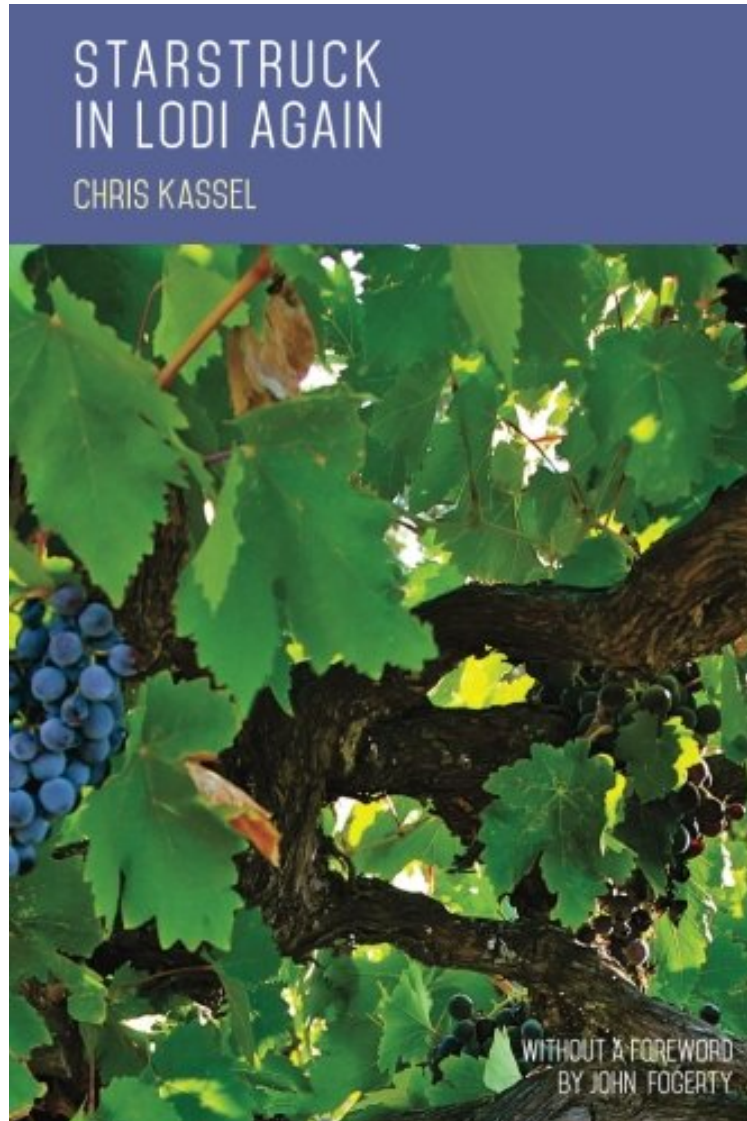


(Ebook pdf) Starstruck in Lodi Again: Lodi Wine Country

Starstruck in Lodi Again: Lodi Wine Country

Chris Kassel

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Chris Kassel : Starstruck in Lodi Again: Lodi Wine Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Starstruck in Lodi Again: Lodi Wine Country:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Zins of the fathers shall be visited upon their children....By Albert Noyer This is the third book Kassel has written about U.S. vineyards, the first two being Paso Robles and Michigans Leelanau and Mission peninsulas. It can be daunting to interview multiple vintners and ask the same questions about family backgrounds, grape specialties, fermentation vats, bottling facilities, labeling and marketing.

Kassel spent a month at Lodi and writes with his usual combination of humor, empathy and knowledgeability about wine varietals. The book's somewhat cryptic title derives from a 1969 song, Lodi Lyrics, by John Fogerty, with the refrain, Oh, Lord, stuck in Lodi again. The author's witty Foreword untangles the connection. In a first chapter, Kassel tags California Zinfandel as Lodi's dominant varietal, with 40% of the vintage coming from 20,000 local acres, then begins his interviews at one of Lodi's oldest wineries still run by a family whose patriarch emigrated from Italy to California in 1906. During Prohibition, special exceptions allowed the manufacture of sacramental wines for Catholic Church services, medical, and non-consumption uses, so limited wine making continued. A second interview is about another Italian family who came to Brooklyn in 1903. At Lodi a present-day descendant partially traded grapes for apples and perfected the production of ciderto the extent of bringing in 5,500 gallons of Washington apple juice at a time. I say partially because he also operates one of several family wineries. Kassel intersperses winery chapters with other residents he met. One is a pilot who took an hour flight over a hundred thousand vineyard acres, more than Napa and Sonoma combined. Statistics say that San Joaquin County leads the state in producing apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, corn and walnuts. Another vintner emigrated from Switzerland, and bypassed zin to raise grapes he knew Kerner, Gewurztraminer, Riesling and Bacchus. He entered winemaking after earlier jobs that enabled travel and exploration of wine regions with various traditions, grape varieties and personal histories. Once interested, he took jobs in Australia, Napa, and the East Coast. An obsessive record keeper, he observes climate shifts that affect vineyard growing seasons and result in earlier harvesting, also the proper use of pesticides. On his rounds, Kassel met a young, homeless man stuck in Lodi by choice. He sleeps in an alley on a donated mattress, prefers not to work, collects cast-off baubles, and yet is tolerated by industrious locals. A Lodi attraction is a haunted boarding house. According to an historical museum volunteer, this Victorian mansion was built in 1900 and known as Hill House. A 2011 newspaper clipping chronicles the creepy experiences of a Lodi Paranormal Investigator. Further research reveals an 1896 report of a landed space craft and alien beings. A costumed Lodi Zombi Walk is held each Halloween Lodi readily admits to needing more tourists! At the end, Kassel pays tribute to the vintner who invited him to write the book, a descendant of the Italian patriarch who came to 1903 Brooklyn. The chapter details the [overused] term American Dream that brought him and others to Lodi. Yet, his family's story is their story, one of luck and labor the heritage of most who believe, dream and work. Kassel hosts a website, Intoxicology Report. Other wine books: A Rite of Paseo / Paso Robles Wine Country and Heart and Soil / Northern Michigan Wine Country. Albert Noyer / Author, The Getorius and Arcadia Mysteries. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. slap the table funny, and any beverage will end up flying out ...By Cathrine M Todd An enjoyable read that makes you laugh and think about one of the last places in the USA that has a true pioneer spirit. Chris Kassel is a gifted writer who is able to entertain while giving an unique point of view about the realities of Lodi Wine: making it, selling it and all the characters directly and indirectly involved with it. He does not shy away from showing all sides of this colorful place, and in the end, gives us a greater sense of our wine heritage as Americans. I felt I learned a lot, as a wine nerd myself, yet it is written in such an accessible style that flows so effortlessly, it would be enjoyable to even those who want less geek and more drink when it comes to their adult beverage of choice. CAUTION: Do not drink wine while you are reading this book. Many parts are laugh out loud, slap the table funny, and any beverage will end up flying out of your mouth. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kassel has an amazing voice while writing and taking the reader through a ...By kelseypaige After visiting Lodi for a conference, I was so excited to find out more about the history, the wine, the culture and the people that made it all happen. Flying back to VA, I couldn't put the book down. Kassel has an amazing voice while writing and taking the reader through a journey of Lodi. Definitely a great read!

Lodi Wine Country: Historic hedonism a hundred miles from San Francisco, Lodi produces 40% of California's Zinfandel and more wine than Oregon and Washington combined. Napa without the price tag; Sonoma without the snoot.