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The Ripening Sun: One Woman and the Creation of a Vineyard

PATRICIA ATKINSON

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PATRICIA ATKINSON : The Ripening Sun: One Woman and the Creation of a Vineyard before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ripening Sun: One Woman and the Creation of a Vineyard:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Even if You Don't Have any Interest in WineBy SerenaA stunning story! Patricia Atkinson is a gutsy, driven, and talented woman who transforms a small derelict vineyard into a thriving enterprise despite a number of troubles that would have made most people sell up and leave.I

have never been particularly interested in any facet of the wine making process so I had no idea that there are so many steps involved. Patricia Atkinson does it all from tractor driving to cleaning the barrels to becoming an expert wine taster. She gets great advice and help from neighbors and friends, but her drive and determination make this book incredibly interesting even if you don't give two hoots about the wine making process. Patricia Atkinson was 50 when she moved to her vineyard which would make her about 75 now. I read that she sold her vineyard, but some of her wines are still made. I hope that she is enjoying herself wherever she is. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best possible book to read if you are thinking of ... By Maggie Boepple The best possible book to read if you are thinking of buying and operating a vineyard. Utterly delightful as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heart and Substance By K. Wallace This genre of books seems all too often to be filled with fluffy, dreamy accounts of the beautiful life in southern Europe, lacking in any real account of the hard work that it took to build that new life. Patricia Atkinson, however, shares the details of what it took to build a life in France, and it is a rich, detailed and emotional account. It is indeed a book that is hard to put down. You may need to have at least some interest in wine making to appreciate all of the details, but anyone buying a book about starting a winery in France probably has that interest (the one-star reviewer being a sad exception). This is the first book that I've read that I felt had the right blend of escapism with a healthy dose of reality, all wrapped around the beautiful land and seasons of southwest France. I can't wait to read her next book.

For most people giving up the day job and moving to a beautiful area of France and living off the vines is an impossible but delicious dream. In 1990, Patricia Atkinson and her husband decided to sell up in Britain and emigrate to the Dordogne. Their idea was to buy a house with a few vines attached and employ someone to tend to the wine while they earned their living with some financial consultancy work. There followed a series of disasters: the stock market crashed leaving their small holding as their sole source of income; the first red wine harvest turned to vinegar; and Patricia's husband returned to Britain, unable to cope with the stress and never returned. Patricia Atkinson, whose only knowledge of wine up to that moment was 'that it came from a bottle' and who had not a word of French, was left to salvage their life savings from the vineyards. What follows is a remarkable story of struggle and transformation whereby her tiny 4 hectare plot has become a major estate of 21 hectares, where her Clos d'Yvigne wines have won awards and been adopted by wine merchants throughout the world and where she has been hailed as a superstar by UK wine writers.

"[an] eloquent tale" * Citylife * "Remarkable . . . an extraordinarily affecting read" -- Carla McKay * Daily Mail * "Enthralling . . . you end up admiring this plucky, warm-hearted woman and lusting to sample her vinous output" -- Christopher Hirst * The Independent * "Should be required reading for anyone enjoying the vineyard dream...an impressive human story" * Spectator * "Amazing and amusing . . . unputdownable" * The Lady * From the Inside Flap A remarkable story of a woman's struggle to transform a tiny 4-hectare vine plot in the Dordogne into a major estate of 21 hectares. Today, Clos d'Yvigne wines win awards and have been adopted by wine merchants throughout the world. About the Author Patricia Atkinson has already been the subject of a Channel 4 documentary and there is further TV interest in bringing her life up to date. She has featured in interviews in The Times, The Observer and the Evening Standard, and on Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time.