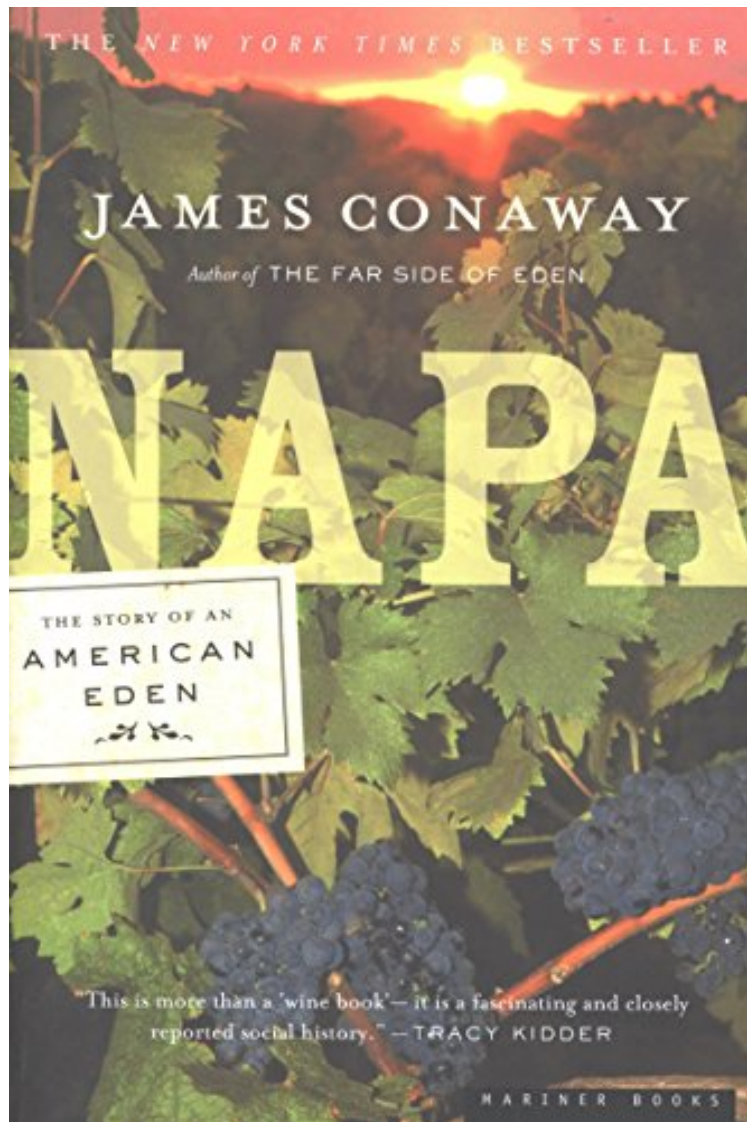


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Napa: The Story of an American Eden

James Conaway

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James Conaway : Napa: The Story of an American Eden before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napa: The Story of an American Eden:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating story badly in need of an editor
By J. Davis
I'm a new resident of Napa, and eagerly read this book. The story is fascinating. The trouble, and it is a real issue, is that no one seems to have read it before publication. Typos abound, and they are serious and frequent enough that it is distracting to the reader. Was no one paying attention? Was there no proof-reader? Didn't anyone think to, at the least, run the book through a spell-checker? Given the subject, and its fascination, I would have expected quite a bit more care in the final production of this work. A shame, really, that such a good story dealing with such an important industry, was

given such amateurish treatment on the part of the author, publisher and editor. It's not too late, really, to correct these miserable distracting matters. Were there but a few I would not be bothered, but by Part II they have become an active part of the writing. It makes the author and publisher seem poorly schooled in the most basic part of the craft: learning to spell. Otherwise recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. simply a mess of a book to try to read. By NadieMax I rarely give up on a book, but I think I will have to on this one. I see that other reviewers have commented on the lack of good editing. What a shame. The Napa story is such a compelling one--a real American story. That it has been presented so poorly is a big disappointment. I rarely have tried to read a book in which the content is so poorly organized. It goes back and forth from the 1960s and the 1800s with little or no transition. There are dozens of characters who are founders of the wine business. It is very difficult to keep track of them in all the muddle. Myriad issues such as referring to the characters by their first name, then later their last name doesn't help. Conway has certainly done his research and has a great deal of detail at his disposal to work with. That is not the problem. A complete re-editing is needed with a cleaner chronology. This was simply a mess of a book to try to read. Not an enjoyable experience whatsoever. I give it two stars only because the author did seem to do his part by gathering lots of details about the story of Napa. Wish it would have been readable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good History of wine making and wineries. By susan Velasquez An interesting history of the establishment of the Napa wineries and especially how the companies work.

James Conaway's remarkable bestseller delves into the heart of California's lush and verdant Napa Valley, also known as America's Eden. Long the source of succulent grapes and singular wines, this region is also the setting for the remarkable true saga of the personalities behind the winemaking empires. This is the story of Gallos and Mondavis, of fortunes made and lost, of dynasties and destinies. In this delightful, full-bodied social history, James Conaway charts the rise of a new aristocracy and, in so doing, chronicles the collective ripening of the American dream. More than a wine book, Napa is a must-read for anyone interested in our country's obsession with money, land, power, and prestige.