

Third Prize in LDEI's M.F.K. Fisher Award

## "The Merry Widows of Mousse"

By Natalie MacLean

Excerpt from *Red, White, and Drunk All Over. A Wine-Soaked Journey from Grape to Glass* (Doubleday Canada and Bloomsbury USA)

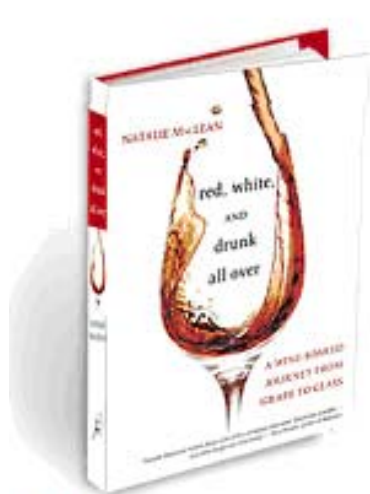


Due to book copyright restrictions, the winning excerpt will be printed only in the conference handout and distributed to attendees October 25, 2008, in Honolulu, Hawaii. However, you may read the chapter by this title in Natalie's book.

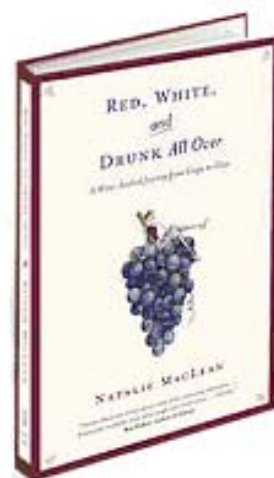
**Natalie MacLean** is a wine writer, speaker and judge. At the World Food Media Awards in Australia, Natalie was named the World's Best Drink Writer. She has also won four James Beard Foundation Journalism awards (including the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award) and five Bert Greene Awards for excellence in food journalism, presented by the International Association of Culinary Professionals, four awards from the American Association of Food Journalists, four from the North American Travel

Writers Association and three honorable mentions at the National Magazine Awards.

She was nominated for the Louis Roederer International Wine Writer award, along with writers from the Financial Times of London, The Independent and Wine International. In the U.K., she has been nominated twice for the Communicator of the Year award, hosted by the International Wine & Spirit Competition in London, England. Previous winners include Jancis Robinson and Hugh Johnson. Her web site has been nominated for Britain's top award, Le Prix du Lanson. Other nominees include the BBC, *Decanter* and *The Wine Spectator*. *Elle* magazine recently named her one of the "Top 30 Power Women."



 American Edition: Bloomsbury U.S.A.



 Canadian Edition: Doubleday

Her articles have appeared in more than sixty newspapers and magazines, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *Bon Appetit*, *Food & Wine*, *Reader's Digest*, *BusinessWeek*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Time Out New York*, *enRoute (Air Canada)*, *Hemispheres (United Airlines)*, *Chatelaine*, *Saturday Night*, *The Age (Australia)*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Wine International*, *Ritz-Carlton Magazine*, and *President's Choice Magazine*.

Natalie's regular wine columns in print reach 5.1 million readers; and her free wine e-newsletter is read by more than 82,000 wine lovers in 36 countries. It helps readers make choices from restaurant wine lists, match wine with food, get good value when you buy wine and chuckle over the lighter side of wine. To sign up, visit [www.nataliemaclean.com](http://www.nataliemaclean.com).

In *Red, White and Drunk All Over: A Wine-Soaked Journey from Grape to Glass*, Natalie MacLean chronicles her last three years sipping, spitting and slogging her way through the international wine world to visit some of its most evocative places and to meet some of its most charismatic, obsessive and innovative characters. This journey includes tasting the world's most seductive pinot noir in Burgundy's ancient vineyards, picking grapes under a hot California sun, working retail at a high-tech shop in New York City, disgorging champagne bottles (nearly taking out the cellar master's eye) and working at a five-star restaurant (dripping red wine across the table linens). The book has been described as *A Year in Provence* meets *Kitchen Confidential* then goes *Sideways*.

Rex Pickett, author of *Sideways*, says that Natalie "writes about wine with a sensuous obsession," and is "laugh-out-loud funny." Eric Asimov of the *New York Times* calls Natalie's approach "a winning formula," describing her as "the disarming Everywoman ... she loves wine, loves drinking." And the *Financial Times of London* observes: "Natalie MacLean is a new force in the wine writing world – a feisty North American answer to Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson."

*Red, White and Drunk All Over* was recently chosen the Best Wine Literature Book in the English language at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. The competition receives more than 6,000 books from 60 countries each year. The awards were created at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany ten years ago to reward those who "cook and drink with words." The book also won the Culinary Literary Book Award in the Cordon d'Or international culinary arts competition and was nominated for the Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-Fiction at the Atlantic Book Awards. The book has become a bestseller and is now in its fourth reprinting.

Other than wine, her interests include highland dancing, which she taught for ten years, after placing fifth in the world championships in Scotland. A Rhodes Scholarship finalist, she studied nineteenth-century English literature at Oxford University, England; earned an honors Bachelor of Public Relations (MSVU, Halifax) and took an MBA with distinction (UWO, London).

Copyright © 2008 by Natalie MacLean. All rights reserved. Natalie MacLean offers a free wine newsletter at [www.nataliemaclean.com](http://www.nataliemaclean.com).