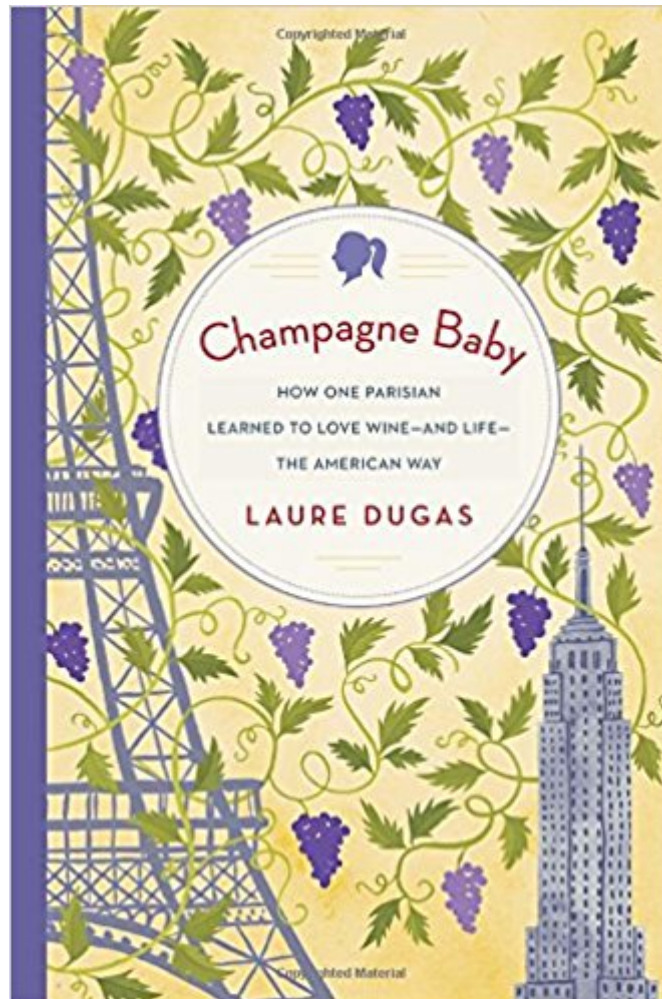


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# Champagne Baby: How One Parisian Learned To Love Wine--and Life--the American Way





## Synopsis

Voted one of the best memoirs of 2016 by Library Journal! Fresh, charming, and irresistible, *Champagne Baby* turns a familiar tale on its head: Instead of yet another American seeking the French secret to good living, a Frenchwoman finds her purpose—much to her surprise—in the U.S. Laure Dugas was born into a family of winemakers from two storied regions of France: Champagne and the Rhône Valley. But she wants little to do with the family business. It is only when her uncle offers to send her to New York City to learn English and represent his wines to the American market that Laure bids adieu to her boyfriend and begins her journey of discovery. The job, it turns out, is both harder and easier than expected. Laure must speak in a new language about a subject in which she has no expertise. With the pedigree of an expert, even as she feels like a fraud, Laure dives into an industry still dominated by men, winning over restaurateurs and sommeliers, diligently developing her palate, and traveling across the vast country that is her new home. For the first time, Laure is able to distinguish among the famous wines of her native land. She learns to greet a wine by the nose and judge a bottle not by its industry rating but by the balance of its flavors. Overcoming homesickness, culture shock, and the trials of a long-distance relationship, Laure manages to settle into her new milieu, her wine-glass-half-full attitude turning an eight-month stint into a three-year adventure. Part coming-of-age memoir, part travelogue, sprinkled throughout with regional maps and wine recommendations, *Champagne Baby* imparts the critical lessons that pair with both wine and life: You're Better Than the Cheapest Bottle, There's Always Occasion for Champagne, and Trust Your Palate. It encourages readers to view themselves and their surroundings with newfound appreciation, and to raise their glasses with open-mindedness and joy. Includes maps of wine regions throughout.

Praise for *Champagne Baby*—a coming-of-age story of a French girl in love with America, *Champagne Baby* is a compulsive read filled with keen observations and sharp descriptions of place and culture—a modern, exuberant tale of two cities and discovery.

—Mireille Guiliano, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *French Women Don't Get Fat*

Dugas's story of being a recent university student and eager to jump at life's chances will resonate with audiences both young and old, wine aficionados and newcomers.

—Library Journal (starred review)

*Champagne Baby* is, like the best bottle of wine, fun and complex, sensual and smart, and totally satisfying.

—Hannah Howard, columnist, *Scoop du Jour*

An enticing story that evolves and ventures into unexpected directions and nourishes a result that Dugas had never imagined.

—Richard Vine, PhD, author of *The Curious World of Wine*

[A] delightful memoir . . . [Dugas] entertainingly reflects on what she learned about herself, her family's wine business, and wines in general while living in the U.S.

—Kirkus



Reviewsâ œ This insightful memoir has the capacity to inspire and charm the novice wine drinker while also reinforcing and reminding the well-seasoned palate of the romance, the seduction of wine.â •â "Booklist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a lovely memoir about finding the sweet spot where your passion and talent intersects. I enjoyed the opportunity to see how the American culture is viewed by young foreign professionals, both the stereotypes and the actual experience. Laure's insights were unique in that she traveled for her work and was able to see many different socio-economic pictures of American life as she traveled across our nation. Pulling back the curtains in the field of marketing/merchandising, with wine being the product being merchandised, revealed various attitudes toward cost and value. I enjoyed the discussion section in each chapter that told about wines, growing regions, tasting considerations, etc. I particularly appreciated the message to savor what is right in front of you, rather than worry about what else is "out there" that you aren't experiencing at the moment. My thanks to Netgalley for the opportunity to read this and offer my opinion.

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The way I read this book is the antithesis of how one is supposed to drink wine: I downed the book instead of sipping and savoring. Champagne Baby is a story of a French woman's journey to find her footing in a new realm that has been in her family for generations. While the author's descriptions of the nuances of



the wine industry were interesting, the real flavor was her own story. It was fascinating. At the end she alluded to another story left to tell, how she met and married her husband. I would like to open up a bottle of wine and settle in for that next chapter, if it is ever forthcoming.

An excellent memoir of a young French lady, who was raised in a wine oriented family but with no real interest in the business. Almost on a lark, she takes a position in her uncle's business, promoting his wine in America. She discovers that she really does love the business, taking jobs in several different areas. But the book is so much more than just the wine, it's an entertaining look into her growth as a person, and the discovery of her own mind. Interspersed with her story are insights into the wine business, from the growing of the grapes to the different varieties to how to describe your own tastings and feelings of wines. While her story is entertaining, I really enjoyed these insights. I hope she writes another book about the next chapter in her life.

I am currently reading it and enjoying the insights from a French point of view, appreciating the observations country-wise and culture-wise. I find her personal story more entertaining than the wine education. But it is an indication on how far her education and love of the wine business evolved from her early beginnings to now. The job she had was one to envy for sure - travel, good food, education, meeting new people. My younger self would have jumped at the opportunity! I agree with many others in that I'd love to read more from her. Perhaps her current experiences as a wine bar proprietor.

We've read a lot of books about American women going to France to find themselves so it was about time there was one going the other way. Dugas has written a charming book and an educational one. It was interesting to read about the US from the perspective of a European millennial. What was even better was learning about wine. I'd like to see more from Dugas. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.

Excellent book, very interesting and it keeps your attention to the end.

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