



 **STARRED REVIEW**

**Exploring Wine Regions: México**

Michael C. Higgins, Ph.D.

*International Exploration Society, 340 pages, (paperback) \$34.95, 978-0-9969660-6-1*

*(Reviewed: December 2024)*

While Mexico may be known for its tequila, this beautifully photographed book, chockful of information, introduces readers to the high-quality Mexican wines of Valle de Guadalupe, Guanajuato and Queretaro.

This is the fourth in a series on notable wine regions in the U.S. and abroad. With the author as tour guide and photographer, the journey includes not only where to wine, but also where to dine, shop and stay while exploring the vineyards.

Higgins, who lives in California, has been to Mexico more than 50 times and is keenly interested in bringing more awareness to Mexican wine, which is having a solid showing these days in wine competitions and at famous restaurants, standing up to its better-known brethren from around the world. Whether Higgins is giving a brief history lesson on the Mexican regions or a quasi-science lesson on terroir, his detail is impressive. But for those who just want to get to the point, he also offers sidebars with only the need-to-know basics of lodgings, restaurants and wineries: address, hours, language spoken, website, dollar signs to note expense, and, for wineries, the types of wines.

But it's Higgins' ability to think like a tourist that stands out. Knowing that some of the roads are out of the way, he gives exacting directions: "Start from the little village of Francisco Zarco and drive north on the street next to La Chica (super market)..." His own excitement nearly leaps off every page, as he relives his journey and genuinely looks forward to yours: "Imagine this. They receive 20,000 people monthly at the winery. It is a super-fun, lively environment."

That heartfelt enthusiasm is contagious. Higgins' love for Mexico shines through both in words and in the 600-plus professional, glossy photographs. Insider tip: Don't miss the section on San Miguel de Allende in Guanajuato. Even armchair travelers will be packing their bags.

Also available as an ebook