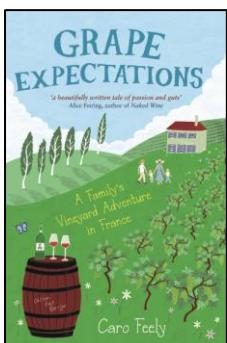


Summersdale New Book Press Release

When a young family find the perfect vineyard in Saussignac, it seems their dreams of becoming wine-makers in France are about to come true. But when they arrive and are faced with a dilapidated farmhouse it soon becomes a nightmare!

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Grape Expectations

A Family's Vineyard Adventure in France

Caro Feely

ISBN: 978 1 84953 257 0 Paperback 320 pages £8.99 4 June 2012

I took a deep draught and swirled it around feeling the warming sensation of alcohol on the back of my throat. The wine filled my mouth with plum and blackberry. The finish had a hint of spice and an attractive saline minerality.

'Delicious.' I licked my lips. The wine filled me with joy. A picture of a vineyard drenched in sunlight formed in my mind. Sean drew me rudely back to the lounge of our semi-d.

'How can they be in liquidation if they make wine this good?'

Caro and Sean were confirmed city dwellers. They had safe jobs, a nice house and were living on M&S dinners. That all changed though when they had the opportunity to achieve their dream of becoming wine-makers in the South of France. In the blink of an eye they had sold their house, gathered up their children – a toddler and a babe-in-arms – and were heading for Saussignac.

Arriving at their new home, a ten-hectare vineyard, the intrepid couple set about renovating a dilapidated eighteenth-century farmhouse and transforming the 'beyond eccentric' winery into a successful business. But while the journey from mouth to stomach of a good St Emilion is pure velvet, the transition from city slickers to connaisseurs du vin proved less smooth. Infestations, visits from the local farm 'police' a leaking roof and a nasty agricultural injury are just some of the challenges that the family faced in their quest to learn how to make wine from the roots up.

Including evocative descriptions of wine and the wine-making process, *Grape Expectations* is travel writing with adventure at its heart. A marvellous account of a captivating mission, this is essential reading not just for wine lovers, but for anyone who has ever longed to follow a dream.

'In this beautifully written tale of passion, caution, guts, Caro Feely takes us on her heartfelt journey as she and her husband breathe life into an old Bergerac winery, while she and her husband Sean resuscitate their own.' Alice Feiring, author of *Naked Wine: Letting Grapes Do What Comes Naturally* and *The Battle for Wine and Love: or How I Saved the World from Parkerization*

Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation. Feature angles: moving abroad with a young family; house renovation with a language difference; setting up and learning a new business; giving up the day job to 'live the dream'. Photos available. The author is available for interview.

About the author: Caro Feely worked as a project manager and IT strategy consultant in South Africa and Ireland before trading it all in to pursue her dreams. She now runs a successful organic wine estate with wine school and gîte rental business in the Dordogne Valley in France with her husband, Sean.



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