



The Winemakers: A Novel of Wine and Secrets

Jan Moran

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A young woman

A family secret

A devastating truth that could destroy the man she loves

Many years ago, the Rosetta family's hard-won dreams of staking their claim in the vineyards of California came to fruition. Now high-spirited, passionate Caterina Rosetta, who has inherited both her mother's talent for crafting the finest wines and also her indomitable will, wants nothing more than to win her mother's approval and work at her side. But that can never happen, because Caterina is keeping a secret that could ruin her: a daughter of her own, fathered by the love of her life, who left her without explanation. Just as she feels she has nowhere to turn, Caterina discovers that she has inherited a vineyard in the Tuscan countryside in Italy, from a grandmother she's never heard of, and she seizes the chance to start a new life for herself and her child.

But the past is not so easily outrun. In the country of her ancestors, Caterina meets the family of the father she never knew, and discovers that her mother is also hiding her own secret—a secret so devastating it threatens the future of everything her family has worked for. As an old murder comes to light, and Caterina uncovers a tragedy that may destroy the man she loves, she realizes her happiness will depend on revealing the truth of her mother's buried past—if she has the strength to face it.

From author Jan Moran comes *The Winemakers*, a sweeping, romantic novel that will hold you in its grasp until the last delicious sip.

The Winemakers: A Novel of Wine and Secrets Details

Date : Published April 5th 2016 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN : 9781250048912

Author : Jan Moran

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Romance, Mystery

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From Reader Review *The Winemakers: A Novel of Wine and Secrets* for online ebook

Janet Robel says

A lovely novel that takes us to Italy. I fell in love with the beautiful cover. Get ready to be transported to vineyards right from the comfort of your favorite chair.

Mary says

I don't always read historical romance but when I do...it's *The Winemakers: A Novel of Wine and Secrets*.

Last week, I was on a bit of a vacay and devoted the majority of my time to reading. It's been a while since I've been able to do this and fortunately I had great books on hand. I was also lucky enough to be a part of Moran's Launch Party Team for *The Winemakers* and received a gorgeous ARC from Jan with matching bookmarks. The book is wonderful inside and out and I hate to sound cliché but I really could not put the book down. From beginning to end, loved this book! The two settings, Napa Valley and Tuscany, were sumptuous and so real that I could smell and taste the succulent, ripe grapes of both regions. And, it was so much fun learning about wine, the process of aging wine, and the many descriptive terms used by wine connoisseurs. Moran did an excellent job creating believable, likeable characters and placing them in locations that spilled into the imagination with ease.

If you love historical romance *The Winemakers: A Novel of Wine and Secrets* is the perfect choice. Pair this book with a glass of fine white or red wine. Doesn't matter. Goes down smoothly with either one. I'd even be willing to read a sequel or two. Yummy!!

Thank you, Jan! I enjoyed being a part of the book launch and I know this book will delight reader's everywhere.

Thebooktrail says

visit the tasty locations here: [The winemakers](#)

There is so much to love about this novel and more than lives up to the high standard she set with *Sent of Triumph*. I just really identify with her characters and understand them. Ava and Caterina's lives are so far removed from my own but it's the little details and the secrets women share that made me feel close to them.

It's a story about women and the choices they had in the 1950s that really held my fascination. The family secrets that come spilling out and the treatment of women as second class citizens is nicely drawn and creates a trail of deceit, secrets and ultimately hope.

On top of this, the story of winemaking and the skill and detail that this involves was just amazing. I knew

nothing about this yet I felt I was on the vineyard myself, talking the language of wine and even though I rarely drink the stuff myself, I really wanted to spend time in both locations finding out more. It's quite an insight into how wine is made and how a vineyard is so much work but can stay in a family for decades.

These are all great ingredients for a novel and together it's like a tapestry of colour, aromas and sensations. A picture of the 1950s, of viniculture and women with choices and family ties.

You have to read this with a glass of the best vino you can find. Relax, take a sip and indulge in a lovely, full flavoured journey.

Jan Moran popped over to the booktrail to tell us a few wine related secrets - The Winemakers author spills the beans but gladly not the wine

The photo shows her tasting wine and researching the novel!

Jessica says

I received this book for free through The Reading Room's giveaways.

So first off, I simply adore historical fiction novels about women in their early 20's trying to forge their own path in life. This book was precisely that so I liked that aspect of the book.

For the most part, I enjoyed the plot, however, the ending was a bit overdramatic.

I also really liked all the romantic locations (Napa, Italy, and Paris) that the book took the reader through.

My favorite thing about this book was how it was subtly sex positive. Like at one point someone says, "What? Sex is healthy between two people in love." There was also some very nice french lingerie mentioned.

Overall, it was a great historical fiction novel.

Romanticamente Fantasy says

California 1956.

Una figlia illegittima, un amore contrastato, un'eredità che proviene da una nonna mai conosciuta, dei segreti di famiglia gelosamente custoditi, un viaggio in Italia e il profumo degli acini d'uva che maturano al caldo sole della Napa Valley... ecco gli ingredienti di questo romanzo storico, la cui trama, per certi versi, mi ha ricordato un film da me molto amato, "Il profumo del mosto selvatico".

La giovane Caterina Rosetta, per dare un futuro alla figlia avuta fuori dal matrimonio e dimenticare Santo, il padre della piccina, decide di accettare l'improvvisa quanto inattesa eredità di una nonna italiana, di cui non sospettava nemmeno l'esistenza: una casa e un vigneto a Montalcino.

Lascia quindi la sua amata Mille Étoiles, la tenuta in cui la madre Ava – viticultrice di successo e donna forte, dalle mille sfaccettature e dai tanti segreti – l’ha cresciuta insegnandole ogni cosa sul vino, per giungere in Italia, dove scoprirà non solo di aver ricevuto in eredità una casa e un vigneto, ma verrà a conoscenza anche del suo passato e delle sue origini.

" Tracciò una linea immaginaria con il dito. Una casa a Montalcino. In Italia. La sua casa, se quei documenti fossero risultati veri.

O forse no. Forse esisteva un’altra donna che portava il suo stesso nome, o forse il testamento era vecchio. Chi aveva idea di cosa accadesse in Italia, una terra tanto lontana?

Aveva sempre sognato di avere una famiglia e il suo vigneto dove avrebbe potuto mettere in pratica la sua arte. Non c’erano molte donne che facessero il vino nell’ambiente, ma lei conosceva bene il mestiere. Si passò le dita sulla fronte corrugata per lisciarla, mentre guardava la foto."

Incentrato principalmente su Caterina Rosetta e sulle sue scelte anticonvenzionali per l’epoca – scelte che la porteranno a scoprire delle verità, inerenti la sua famiglia, sepolte oramai da anni – il valore aggiunto di questo libro sta nella presenza di donne forti che portano avanti le loro vite, in spregio a una mentalità sociale che vedeva la figura femminile in secondo piano per molti, anzi troppi aspetti.

«Avresti dovuto sposare Ted quando ne avevi la possibilità. Stai invecchiando, e non hai prospettive di matrimonio. Quando pensi di avere dei figli?».

Caterina esitò un attimo. «Io ho una figlia».

Ecco, l’aveva detto. Tutto il suo mondo le scivolò sotto i piedi.

Ava inclinò la testa. «Che cosa?».

Le parole schizzarono fuori come una molla. «Ho una bambina, ha un anno e si chiama Marisa».

Caterina osservò le labbra di sua madre che si schiudevano per lo stupore. Il senso di colpa la assalì. Avrebbe dovuto confidarglielo molto tempo prima.

«No, no, no». Macchie rosse comparvero sul petto di Ava e lei si portò una mano al collo.

[...]

Ava le afferrò il braccio. «Me lo devi dire».

Poi la voce le si strozzò in gola, e sua madre emise dei deboli sospiri che Caterina non aveva mai sentito prima. «Non è di Santo, vero?»

«E anche se lo fosse?».

Caterina non riusciva a distogliere lo sguardo, il volto di Ava era immobile nella più tormentata delle espressioni che avesse mai visto.

«Saresti terribilmente... rovinata. Tutti... ma non lui».

Questa è una storia di donne che hanno combattuto gli eventi avversi, uscendone ferite, ma vincenti, ed è anche un romanzo di segreti celati da decenni, capaci, anche a distanza di anni, di ostacolare un amore, di creare delle divisioni e di procurare tanta sofferenza.

Ava singhiozzava sulla spalla di Caterina. «Tempo fa Santo era innamorato di te, ma chérie».

Come poteva la vita essere così crudele? Le venne meno la terra sotto i piedi, come se una voragine si fosse inghiottita la vita che sempre aveva sognato. La nausea l’assalì.”

«Venne a chiedermi la tua mano in matrimonio, ma io lo cacciai via. Non potevate stare insieme. Ho spezzato il cuore di quel povero ragazzo».

“E il mio”. Caterina si morse il labbro inferiore. Come avrebbe fatto a dirlo a Santo?

Ava prese il viso di Caterina tra le mani. «Mi dispiace, ma le cose potevano essere ben peggiori».

Caterina ebbe l’impressione che le conficcassero un coltello nel cuore. All’improvviso comprese perché sua madre le aveva nascosto la verità. Infliggere sofferenza a qualcuno che si ama è infinitamente più doloroso

che tenersi il peso delle cose per sé.

Per questo Caterina non avrebbe mai detto ad Ava che la sua bellissima nipote era figlia di Santo.

I personaggi sono tutti ben delineati, anche quelli secondari o quelli che fanno soltanto una fugace apparizione. Ben riuscito, altresì, l'incastro tra il presente della narrazione nel 1956 e i capitoli dedicati al passato di Ava, la madre della protagonista.

La narrazione in terza persona, lungi dall'apparire distaccata, permette un approccio di ampio respiro, facilitando sia il passaggio tra capitoli ambientati in anni/contesti geografici diversi, che l'inserimento di alcune informazioni di supporto, come ad esempio gli accenni (che poi accenni non sono) a tutto il mondo che ruota intorno al vino.

Era un vino fenomenale, un vero e proprio vino di terroir, con un forte senso di appartenenza che rifletteva il terreno, il clima e l'altitudine. Ricordò le sfumature che conteneva, sentori di rovere affumicato, cioccolato, spezie, mora, minerali e materia vulcanica. Ma era abbastanza buono per competere sulla scena mondiale?

Gli unici punti che non ho apprezzato particolarmente sono alcuni momenti della narrazione che ho trovato troppo "velocizzati", come alcuni passaggi di scena o eventi che, a mio avviso, sono stati poco approfonditi nella loro reale complessità.

Un altro aspetto che non ho gradito appieno riguarda alcuni colpi di scena che, per quanto funzionali alla trama, sono decisamente degni di una soap opera americana: come ad esempio i due coup de théâtre finali, con cui si ricompongono gli eventi narrati per giungere, in modo un po' troppo artefatto e forse scontato, al classico lieto fine.

Da ultimo, un breve commento in merito alla traduzione e all'editing della versione italiana. Premesso che, quasi certamente, quest'ultimo, dopo la traduzione, non è stato fatto (tanto per dirne una: "gli" al posto di "loro" è ancora un errore nell'italiano scritto), ho riscontrato spesso sbavature e imperfezioni disseminate qua e là nel romanzo.

Incuriosita, poi, da una frase senza senso e da un'altra che "zoppicava" parecchio, ho scaricato l'estratto gratuito da Amazon, in lingua originale; confrontando le due versioni, ho trovato degli errori di traduzione, nonché delle aggiunte e delle sottrazioni di termini, senza che ve ne fosse reale necessità.

Fatemelo dire, anzi urlare: NO!

Per carità, lo so: la figura del traduttore è sottopagata, ma quando si sbaglia a tradurre – un errore, quindi, non un refuso! – si sbaglia a tradurre. Né più né meno.

E il lettore non deve assolutamente pagare lo scotto per delle dinamiche editoriali di scarsa qualità.

Fortunatamente, per quello che ho potuto confrontare, le imperfezioni non sono tali da compromettere in toto la lettura, ma sono sufficienti per farmi protestare, anche perché non ho la certezza che non abbiano influito sulla percezione di scarsa fluidità o eccessiva velocità avuta in merito ad alcune scene.

Sicuramente è un libro piacevole per trascorrere qualche ora immersi in una storia dal gusto vintage, rigorosamente a lieto fine, che, pur non avendo delle pretese educative, riesce comunque a veicolare dei messaggi forti.

Jenni says

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars

This definitely lived up to the high bar Jan set with *Scent of Triumph*.

She has such a way with strong female characters which is so refreshing. Caterina, a single mother in the 50's from a strict family, and her mother Ava, who was orphaned in the 20's and then married off to a husband in a foreign country when she was only 19 are both are incredibly strong and resilient characters. The odds are definitely stacked against them, but they come up with such creative solutions and forge onward in their own ways.

Then there is the wine. Like *scent of triumph*, Jan really knows her stuff. She obviously do a ton of research before writing this book, because she speaks about wine in terms that I can't imagine the average person just knows. It was a fascinating little window into the world of wine-making.

And the plot itself keeps you on the edge of your seat. I didn't want to put this book down because I just had to know how it ended and how all threads of scents wove together.

The romance in this book is really quite lovely too, but it does not overpower these two strong female leads. It moves the story forward and it is the story, but it's does not weaken our leading ladies. I love that.

Jan Moran just became and auto-buy author for me.

I received this book free from the publisher for an honest review.

Video Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iH5-...>

The Lit Bitch says

4.5 stars.

WONDERFUL READ!!!

I've read Jan Moran's other novel and was completely blown away by her depth of characters, detailed plots, and elegant romance. So when this book came up, I interestingly enough has mixed feelings about reviewing it. On one hand I know the caliber of her writing and how well she does romance.....however this sounded more like a family saga so I wasn't sure what to expect. Ultimately I decided to review it because I know how well she writes.

I was NOT disappointed! I read this book in like 2 days. Even though it was 350+ pages, it read so quick and didn't feel slow in any part. What I found most interesting about this novel was the whole wine part. I do not drink wine and I have zero knowledge about the wine industry.....nor did I really have any interest in it but this novel made wine sound so beautiful and romantic. I instantly wanted to learn more about wine and how it was made etc. I've even started researching wine tastings in my area and in Napa Valley thanks to this book! It sounds so wonderful and interesting so I've become inspired to try out the whole wine tasting thing and see if I can expand my knowledge on a topic!

Besides the wine part, this novel was filled with intriguing family secrets, some romance, and a balanced two time period novel. The novel alternates between Caterina's 1950's story and her mother's 1920's story but one didn't eclipse the other which I loved. Caterina was still the focus of the novel and I enjoyed her as a character immensely. She was strong but not annoyingly so, and there was room for her character to grow throughout the story. I loved watching her romance and her story unfold.

The only criticism I had was about the ending. I felt like there was all this build up to the ending and then it simply came together without the drama and resolution that the situation demanded. I don't want to ruin it for anyone so that's all I say about the ending. I basically felt like it wrapped up a little too neatly and too fast and then the novel was over so I just felt like the conclusion could have been a little more structured.

Overall this was a wonderful novel about family secrets, lies, romance, and wine! You don't have to love wine to appreciate this novel but it certainly does help!

See my full review [here](#)

Sue says

This is a novel about two strong women in a wine making family - Ava, the mother and the owner of the California winery and her only daughter Caterina who has hopes of working at her mother's side. What could have been a wonderful mother and daughter business is ruined by the secrets that both women keep from each other. After telling her mother about the baby that she had when she was at college and that she plans to keep, Caterina goes to Italy to the house that she has inherited from the grandmother she never knew. There she finds out secrets about her mother and her family that may change her life and the existence of the family winery in Napa Valley. She and her mother must face the past together or be destroyed by it.

The time period of the novel is the 1950s and the author highlights that very well. The reader sees it in the treatment of both women as second class citizens, especially in the way they are treated by bankers. We also see it in the clothes that the women wear when they dress up with hats and gloves.

The author definitely did considerable research into the process of wine making. I learned a lot about it as I read the novel. Not in a boring way but as part of the story of what went on at the winery.

This novel has it all - great plot, strong characters, mystery, suspense and romance. Trust me, you won't be able to put it down once you've started it!

(The book was given to me by the author for a fair and honest review.)

Annie says

Even with the abundance of secrets and lies, this could have been a 4-star read at least. But the major "secret" is so predictable, as is most of the plot, and the way Caterina and Santo carry on even after hearing that they may share a parent, is disgusting to me. Santo comes across as a weak willed character that's stubborn at all the wrong times. And how the heck do you hide from your mother a pregnancy and a baby??? It's all very improbable, overly angsty, and I didn't find much to like in Santo and therefore couldn't

sympathize much with Caterina.

Ava's story was more interesting, albeit heartbreakingly sad. But Ava too, kept secrets that should not have been kept. It's all a mess, even if it is a pretty enjoyable one.

Hanna says

I had approximately 8 glasses of wine while reading this book.

All red.

This story looks at relationship between a mother and daughter to uncover similarities neither one saw coming. Taking place in California and in Italy, the book jumps between timeframes and builds on the family secrets to keep a reader engaged.

****Received as a Goodreads Winner****

Katie Harder-schauer says

I received a copy of this book through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

The cover and title of this book made me think of *Eight Hundred Grapes* by Laura Dave and I've always enjoyed historical fiction so I was excited to dive in. It absolutely did not disappoint.

As a modern feminist, I spend large portions of the book irritated at the beliefs and actions of society in general. I realize that the attitudes were commonplace in the 1950s, when this book is set, and it makes me so thankful that I was born after the big push of the women's rights movement. I definitely had no problem relating to Caterina and Ava and their issues with society's attitudes toward strong, independent women.

The story got off to kind of a slow start for me, building the mystery and anticipation. There was a lot of "I can't ever let her know this very important secret" kind of stuff going on, and it was kind of obvious that these secrets should really be divulged (although maybe I just wanted that because I didn't get to know what most of them were either in the beginning.) Once the story picked up, it had me on the edge of my seat until the very end. There may have been some squealing involved (and pleading, ranting, and a bit of hoping as well if I'm being totally honest). I probably sounded like a certified lunatic for the last 30% of the book.

Overall I give *The Winemakers* 5 out of 5 stars because it was just that good. I would highly recommend it.

Reviewed on Just Another Girl and Her Books blog
<http://www.justanothergirlandherbooks...>

Vilija says

Italija, vynas ir meil?!! Ir XX a. 6 dešimtmetis!! Kažkas nerealaus!!

Francoise says

I enjoyed this story about a winemaking family from Napa Valley, Tuscany, and France set in the years 1920s and 1950s. It is centered on a mother, Ava, and her daughter, Caterina. Both share a love for their famous vineyard, Mille Etoiles and, of course, their wine. This story has a vintage feel, that I found quite refreshing !

Caterina refuses to marry the man chosen by her mother, she is in love with another man, the father of her hidden daughter. She decides to leave with her child and start a new life in Italy where she has inherited a house from her grandmother.

But in Italy, she also discovers that her family has long buried secrets, that have been a heavy burden to carry for her mother. And soon they will be in danger of losing their beloved vineyard of Mille Etoiles.

I loved both women in this story. They are strong characters, willing to fight for what they believe is right. This was my first book by Jan Moran, but I was impressed by her ability to create multi-layered and complex characters, some good and some evil. I also enjoyed the vivid and richly evocative descriptions of landscapes and of the charming aspects of life in Tuscany, including the great food ! It reminded me of holidays under the Italian sun ! Obviously this won't be my last book by this author !

ARC kindly received from publisher St. Martin's Press, via NetGalley, in exchange for my honest feedback.

Nora|KnyguDama says

JAN MORAN "VYNDARIAI"

Vos tik pradėjus skaityti ši knygą žinojau, jog rašyti apie ją bus labai lengva. Nuo pirmojo skyriaus knyga traukia, ir nepaleidžia iki paskutinio. Tai knyga be didelių žangų pagrindinė veiksmo - paprasta ir aiški.

"Vyndariai" tai pasakojimas apie dvi kartas - mamos Avos ir dukters Katerinos. 1956 metai. Katerina, jauna gražuolė rankose laikanti nesantuokinę kėdikę, keliauja pas savo mamą. Mama, itin griežta pažiūra, vynuogyno savininkė, ir Katerina žino, jog mama pasmerks jos pasirinkimą pasilikti vaikelį, o ne atiduoti vaikinimui. Nepaisant baimės, Katerina atvažiuoja ir vynuogyne sutinka ne tik savo mamą, bet ir gyvenimo meilę, vaiko tėtą Santą. Neilgai trukus Katerina sužino, jog iš savo mirusio tėvo mamaos gavo palikimą - namą Italijoje. Pasiūmusi vaiką ji ten iškeliauja ieškoti laimės. Tačiau ne tik laimę ji ten atranda. Bėgama dėl tobulosios mamos praeitį, pasakojimai apie jos tėvą ir rodomai, jog jos visai nėra miręs. Katerina nusprendžia sužinoti visą tiesą, ir kartu dalyvauti vyndarių konkurse.

Pirma mano mintis perskaičius knygą - štai, tas tobulasis atostogų romanas. Nei per sudėtingas, nei banalus. Pilnas jausmų, veiksmo, paslapčių ir begalo domių faktų apie vyną. Mėgavausi skaitydama apie jo darymo subtilybes, pasakojimus koks vynas yra geras, kokiais slaptais būdais išgaunami skoniai, kaip teisingai pajausti visas vyno skonius gaidas. Taip pat, knyga skaitant net seilės kaupiasi, kuomet buvo aprašomi itališki valgiai ir jų gaminimas. Knyga skatina domėtis ir išjausti visus Italijos skonius, pajausti jos temperamentą ir suprasti vyndarių meno subtilybes.

Knyg? prilygin?iau ?domiam moteriškam serialui. Bet ne toms muilo operoms, kuri? vienas veiksmas trunka tris šimtus serij?. Kalbu apie tokius serialus kaip "Dauntono abatija", "Velvetas", "Grand hotel viešbutis". Kokybiškas romanas moterims, kurios nori pails?ti, neapkrauti sav?s, bet kartu nori ir ?traukian?io, užburian?io pasakojimo. Knyg? tikrai bus sunku pad?ti ? šal?, o perskai?ius - sunku pamiršti.

Kathryn says

I can't believe the ratings for this book. It is the worst written book I have read in years. Completely implausible plot, simpering characters, a child that spends the whole book napping so the protagonist doesn't have to deal with her. Ridiculously overblown descriptions of clothing and scenery. Dreck.
