

## Pairing Words & Wine

**Favorite Authors /  
New Releases**  
July 2008

**Dear Barbara,**

Wine pairings. We often hear about pairing wine with foods to enhance the flavor of both. Now **Reading Group Choices** is pairing wine with books to enhance the liveliness of your discussions. Pick a discussible book for your next gathering, and choose a wine to sip at the event that complements the book.

Lots of book and bottle ideas, some great tips from your colleagues, and some potentially big winnings are all in store for you in this issue of the **Reading Group Choices** newsletter.

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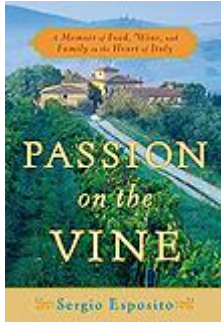
Passion on the Vine

### Wine by the Book!



So many of us share books and wine in our book discussions that **Reading Group Choices** wanted to enhance this experience. We think words and wine make a perfect pairing. So we are introducing a new feature on the **Reading Group Choices** website - [Wine by the Book!](#)

We have asked Laurie Forster, [The Wine Coach](#), to kickoff [Wine by the Book!](#) with some wine pairings to increase the joy of reading a new **Reading Group Choices** selection -



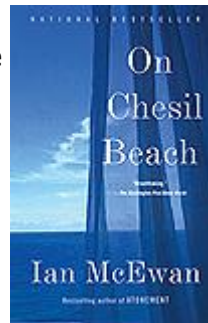
Infused with captivating images of a Neapolitan boyhood and a career devoted to the incomparable wonders of Italian wine, ***Passion on the Vine: A Memoir of Food, Wine, and Family in the Heart of Italy*** by Sergio Esposito is an enchanting love letter to a singular destination, written not by an outsider but by one of its most devoted sons. The book is a captivating armchair-travel experience that whisks you to locales

that even most Italians are barred from entering. This intoxicating memoir yields much for your reading group to savor. Read our new feature, **Wine by the Book!**, and uncork some wine selections to complement this reading group choice.

## New Choices!

A number of authors who are already proven winners with reading groups have new titles appearing in bookstores this month.

As one of your group's summer choices, why not try ***On Chesil Beach*** by Ian McEwan, the bestselling author of such reading group favorites as ***Atonement*** (winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the W. H. Smith Literary Award) and ***Amsterdam*** (winner of the Man Booker Prize). With exquisite prose, the author creates in ***On Chesil Beach*** a story of lives transformed by a gesture not made or a word not spoken.



Just released this month as well is Christina Schwarz's new novel. Christina is the author of the critically acclaimed ***All Is Vanity*** and the #1 bestseller and Oprah's Book Club selection ***Drowning Ruth***. In the new book, ***So Long at the Fair***, she returns to the small-town Wisconsin she so brilliantly evoked with ***Drowning Ruth***, a gripping story

about love, marriage, and adultery.

***Passion on the Vine: A Memoir of Food, Wine, and Family in the Heart of Italy*** by Sergio Esposito.

In the coming months, Laurie will explore wines from regions found in other book club picks and give general tips on wine essentials, including how to order wine at dinner, simplify food pairings, handle awkward wine moments, and even bounce back the morning after!

In celebration of this new adventure, **Reading Group Choices** and **The Wine Coach**® are giving away five copies of Laurie's new book, ***The Sipping Point: A Crash Course in Wine***. The fit-in-your-purse book is welcome advice in a warm, engaging style. We hope you enjoy it and our new feature - **Wine by the Book!** Cheers!

**Enter for a chance to win The Sipping Point**

**Free Books for a Year!**

Jonathan Tropper, the acclaimed author of *The Book of Joe* and *Everything Changes*, tackles love, lust, and lost in the suburbs in *How to Talk to a Widower*, a new release that will both pull at your heartstrings and tickle your funny-bone.



[Enter to win a copy!](#)



And on a more serious note, Karen Essex, the author of the bestselling *Leonardo's Swans*, traverses the centuries into the hearts of two extraordinary women to reveal the passions, ambitions, and controversies surrounding the Elgin Marbles in her new work of historical fiction, *Stealing Athena*.

## Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Wendy and **Books for Moms** and to Sarah and **We Love to Read** for winning the random drawings for this month's Discussible Book Choice! Both groups chose the same book - just wait until you see what they both said about it!



"Our book club of mom's just read the best summer-time novel *The Book of Mom* by Taylor Wilshire. All 10 of us loved it -- which never happens!"

**Wendy, Books for Moms, Boston, MA**

"We have a book club of 45 women, some with kids, some that are married, some not--we meet once a month. We stumbled across a book by a local author - Taylor Wilshire's *The Book of Mom*. All of us liked it except one, because she didn't like the main character. (Our group is never this agreeable on anything). This is a fast-paced beach read that is funny and is really meant for mom's, but the truth is it's really about the struggles women make and how to take better care of ourselves. Two thumbs way up!"

Click Here for a Chance to



Win a Year's Worth of Books For Your Book Club

[Compliments of HarperCollins](#)

Chances to Win Discussible Books

*Fire in the Blood*

*In the Woods*

*The Sipping Point*

*How to Talk to a Widower*

*The Garden of Last Days*

New 1-On-Ones

[Mitch Cullin](#)

[Jonathan Tropper](#)

[Debbie Fuller Thomas](#)

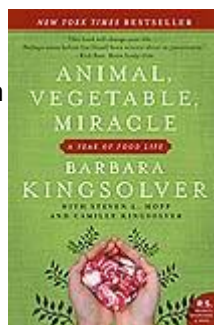
## Sarah, We Love to Read, San Diego, CA

We enjoy hearing from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please [let us know](#) about your group's discussible choices - you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group!

### [More Discussible Choices](#)

## Literary Recognitions

Barbara Kingsolver recently won the James Beard Award for Food Writing for ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life***, a **Reading Group Choices** selection.



To celebrate the **40th anniversary** of The Man Booker Prize, six authors are in the running to win a one-off award. The Best of the Booker has, for the first time, invited the public to help decide on which novel deserves to take this prestigious one-off award. The six authors with the opportunity to be called Best of the Booker are **Pat Barker**, Peter Carey, **JM Coetzee**, JG Farrell, Nadine Gordimer and Salman Rushdie.

A Telegraph.co.uk poll has revealed what readers think are the **Top 50 Books of All Time** and the **50 Best Ever Summer Holiday Books**.

## Lots of Chances to Win!

Don't miss the many ways your book group can win this month. For starters, you (or your group) may find **a year's supply of books** arriving at your doorstep! To enter, just click here [or on the ad in the right-](#)



Or **enter to win** a copy of ***Fire in the Blood***, from the celebrated author of the international bestseller ***Suite Française***.

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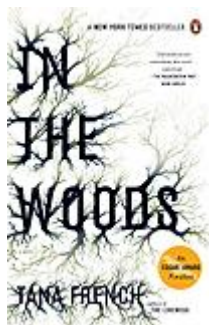
[About Us](#)

It's a story of passion and long-kept secrets, set against the background of a rural French village in the years before World War II.

Or **enter to win** the new paperback edition of ***In the Woods***, Tana French's novel sure to enthrall fans of ***Mystic River*** and ***The Lovely Bones***.



Or even **enter to win** a copy of Andre Dubus III's new release, ***The Garden of Last Days*** - a big-hearted, painful, page-turning novel from the author of the *New York Times* bestseller and Oprah's Book Club selection *House of Sand and Fog*.



And as mentioned earlier, you may be the lucky winner of a copy of ***The Sipping Point: A Crash Course in Wine*** or a copy of ***How to Talk to a Widower***.

Join Our Mailing List!

## WNBA Names New Leadership

On June 23, the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) - the organization that initiated **National Reading Group Month** - named Joan Gelfand, a writer with a focus on poetry and short stories, as its new president. Joining Gelfand on the WNBA board are Vice President Mary Grey James, lead buyer for Ingram in LaVergne, TN; Treasurer Margaret Auer, dean of University Libraries/Instructional Design Studio at the University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI; and Secretary Ruth Light, a Los Angeles-based writer. Congratulations to the new officers, and thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive.



## Book Group Tips

Two book groups offer tips from experience that have enhanced their book discussions. Maybe they will work for yours!

"I feel that 10 members is an ideal size for a book group. As

a leader, I read the book the weekend before the meeting to have it fresh in my mind. I come prepared with questions, but often I listen to where the discussion is going and ask questions that continue the discussion. If the group becomes loud or unfocused it is time to ask a different question to get their thoughts going in a different direction."

**Tamera, Southwest Reading Group, Arlington, TX**

"In the past, members tended to monopolize the discussions even if they had NOT read the book but had seen the movie. We now have a strict rule that only those who have READ the book may make comments."

**Susan, Heritage Book Group, Wake Forest, NC**

**Tell Us Your Tips**

**More Tips**

**New Profiles of Discussibles**

Still don't know what book to suggest for your next gathering? We're continually adding to our list of discussible book selections and posting Profiles of them on the website. **Click here** to see what's new this month - maybe your next read is among them.

**Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,**



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