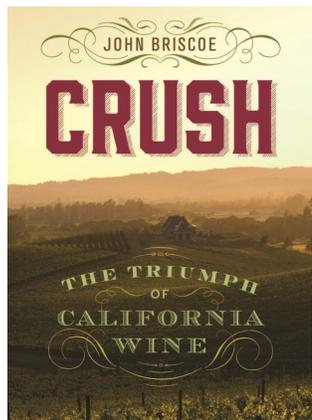


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Ivester

Phone: (941) 321-8570



Reno, Nevada—University of Nevada Press will release

### **Crush: The Triumph of California Wine**

by John Briscoe

September 4, 2018

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-943859-49-8 — \$34.95

History / United States / State & Local / West, 384 Pages

Distribution: University of Nevada Press c/o Chicago Distribution Center

11030 South Langley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628

Email: [orders@press.uchicago.edu](mailto:orders@press.uchicago.edu)

Phone: 800-621-2736 Fax: 800-621-8476

Look. Smell. Taste. Judge. **Crush** is the 200-year story of the heady dream that wines as good as the greatest of France could be made in California. A dream dashed four times in merciless succession until it was ultimately realized in a stunning blind tasting in Paris. In that tasting, in the year of America's bicentennial, California wines took their place as the leading wines of the world.

For the first time, Briscoe tells the complete and dramatic story of the ascendancy of California wine in vivid detail. He also profiles the larger story of California itself by looking at it from an entirely innovative perspective, the state seen through its singular wine history.

With dramatic flair and verve, Briscoe not only recounts the history of wine and winemaking in California, he encompasses a multidimensional approach that takes into account an array of social, political, cultural, legal, and winemaking sources. Elements of this history have plot lines that seem scripted by a Sophocles or Shakespeare. It is a fusion of wine, personal histories, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects.

**Crush** is the story of how wine from California finally gained its global due. Briscoe recounts wine's often fickle affair with California, now several centuries old, from the first harvest and vintage, through the four overwhelming catastrophes, to its amazing triumph in Paris.



**John Briscoe** is a poet, author, and lawyer. He has published several books and numerous academic articles on law and history, including *The Lost Poems of Cangjie* and *Tadich Grill: The Story of San Francisco's Oldest Restaurant*. Practicing natural resources and public international law since 1972, he has tried and argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, and in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. He is a distinguished fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, and has served twenty-three years on the advisory board of the MFA program in creative writing at St. Mary's College of California. He is vice-president of the San Francisco Historical Society, a board member of others, and co-owner of Sam's Grill in San Francisco, founded in

1867, making it the fifth-oldest restaurant in the country. Sam's is the hangout for the city's writers, politicians, poets, priests, plumbers and even an occasional lawyer.

Briscoe's *The Lost Poems of Cangjie*, published by Risk Press, are translations of recently discovered poems of the Chinese historical figure Cangjie, storied inventor of the Chinese system of writing during the reign of The Yellow Emperor, Huangdi, in the 27<sup>th</sup> century BCE, approximately 4700 years ago. In *Tadich Grill: The Story of San Francisco's Oldest Restaurant*, Briscoe tells the story of newborn San Francisco attaining international culinary renown before reaching the age of majority, through the keyhole of its oldest restaurant, Tadich Grill, founded in the gold rush year of 1849. Peppered throughout with vibrant stories, anecdotes, memories, archival images, and recipes, the restaurant truly comes alive for the reader.

#### Praise for John Briscoe and *Crush*

"A tour de force of scholarship, fine writing, and multifaceted format, **Crush** is destined to earn a place among the classics of wine literature and California history. Briscoe describes the process of how California introduced wine to America. With equal verve and amplitude, he evokes the alchemy through which wine – as agriculture, as vintners' art, as connoisseurship in dialogue with advanced and popular taste alike – helped define California as a regional civilization.

—Kevin Starr, former professor of history and  
California State Librarian

"**Crush** is simply superb—both as history and story-telling. The Paris tasting and its aftermath was a transformative moment in California's cultural history. This immensely readable book captures the excitement, the fun, and the astonishment of the event."

—Dana Gioia, Poet Laureate of California

"An entertaining and insightful story of California seen through the state's wine history, **Crush** is an essential addition to any California bookshelf. Readers may never look at their glass of California wine in the same way."

—Christopher O'Sullivan, University of San Francisco

Contact David Ivester, Marketing & Publicity Director with questions or requests:

[david@author-guide.com](mailto:david@author-guide.com) — 941-321-8570

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