

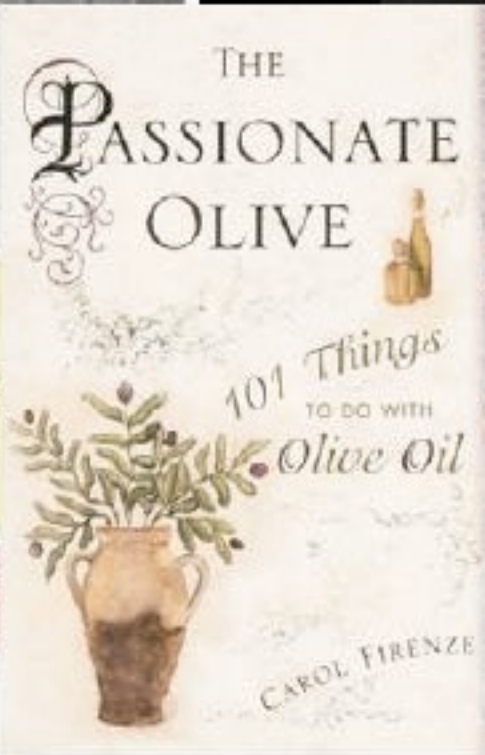
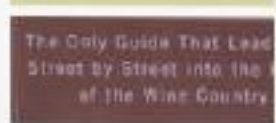
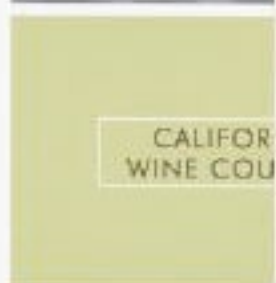
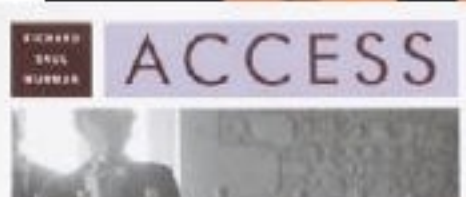
GET PERSPECTIVE

Books that offer a different look at family, food, and travel

Cool Places to Warm Up in San Francisco

By Laura Dorothy Haertling (Hot Studio)

Laura Dorothy Haertling examines San Francisco in a series of photographs that lead readers on a 24-hour trip through some of the city's most eccentric sites. "The book takes you off the tourist map and answers questions such as where do I get a Yakuza tattoo, then take a taxidermy class?" says Steve Muller, who penned the text that accompanies the photos. Whether you visit the 24 stops in one day or spread them out, this clever book will lend a new view to the city by the bay.



Access: California Wine Country

By Richard Saul Wurman (Collins)

It's not as if you need one more item to squeeze into your travel tote, but this guide to the Sonoma, Napa, and Russian River valleys is well worth its weight, chockfull of easy-to-read maps and hundreds of numbered and color-coded entries. At a glance, oenologist or not, you'll be ready to navigate among the wine country's best restaurants, hotels, wineries, shops, and other tourist stops.

Sacred Time

By Ursula Hegi (Touchstone)

Anthony Amedeo simply wishes for a glass-wax stencil kit: not much for a 7-year-old to ask for in the winter of post-war 1953. Instead, his comfortable life gets complicated, as his uncle Malcolm goes to jail for stealing stamps and office supplies from an employer, and his aunt Floria and her 8-year-old twins move in. An unspeakable tragedy happens, and Anthony finds himself at the center of suspicion. Weaving the past with the present and spanning several generations, the dark side of family life surfaces.



The Passionate Olive:

101 Things to Do with Olive Oil

By Carol Firenze (Ballentine Books)

Los Gatos writer Carol Firenze extols the many virtues of olive oil. Called "liquid gold" by Homer, olive oil has surprising uses beyond culinary interests, such as in medicine, beauty, and sacred rituals. Use it to polish the kitchen floor, curb your cat's hairball problems, silence squeaky door hinges, or repel pesky mosquitoes. Firenze, a certified olive oil consultant and board member of the California Olive Oil Council, suggests keeping a bottle in every room of the house.

Jodi Engle