

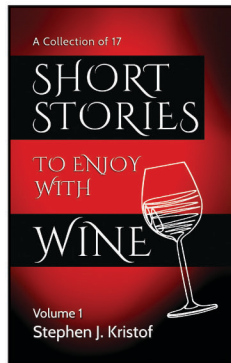
**FROM THE BOOKSHELF**

# Short Stories To Enjoy With Wine

As this issue celebrates in the Cover Story the abundance of locally-produced wine options and the fine wineries that produce them, we at *Biz X* magazine thought it would be fitting to also explore a new locally-authored book with a focus on wine!

Imagine spending a relaxing evening or weekend afternoon, reading some enchanting fiction while sipping on your favourite wine. It just may be the perfect way to unwind and ease the tension! The choice of wine is up to you, but we have a recommendation for a very fitting book.

About a year after releasing his last book, local author **Stephen Kristof** started digging-into a new project. The idea was to write a book that would pair perfectly with the Drink of the Gods. The result was released in April 2023.



Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine is the first in a three-book series that has wine lovers and readers rejoicing!

At 385 pages, the first volume is packed with 17 riveting short stories and novelettes, all woven together with the common thread of wine. Each story begins with a quick look at some stand-out characteristics of a certain wine grape varietal, which Kristof uses to gently launch the reader into a spellbinding plot that makes the book hard to put down.

Kristof's motivation for his new book was about feeding our desire to be joyful and contented.

As he explains: "There's no doubt that, as a society, we've been through a lot of chaos in the last few years; people everywhere are craving an escape from that; we want to relax, to be happy, and to do things that make us feel good about ourselves and others."

For many people, there's nothing more therapeutic and uplifting than reading while enjoying some good wine. Kristof's response was to spin his rich imagination and passion for writing into gripping tales that *really do* pair well with vino!

The fiction is quite diverse, with genres ranging from romance to time travel to crime to sentimental feel-good stories and everything in-between. His characters are memorable, relatable and believable. He describes visual scenery and senses in ways that are poetic and often beautiful.

"The focus on wine in these stories is provided as a vehicle to make them more interesting for wine enthusiasts; it's also a way to encourage the reader to enjoy life," Kristof comments. "My goodness, things don't always have to be so serious!"

Growing-up and living in Windsor Essex influenced Kristof in many ways. In terms of his new book, watching the local wine industry grow and mature over the years left an impression on him. Had it not been for that aspect of living here, the thought of framing his new book with wine would likely have never occurred to him.

So, why short stories instead of a standard novel?

The format has become increasingly popular with readers in recent years. With so many demands on our time, the short story allows the reader to experience the satisfaction of completing an entire piece



Stephen Kristof's first mass market book, *Feeling Normal Again*, was profiled in *Biz X*, March 2022. This was a pandemic-related non-fiction book that did well and, based on reader feedback, helped a lot of people. In the interim, he finished another book and completely switched tracks! With the pandemic firmly in the rear-view mirror, Kristof (pictured tasting a glass of Essex County wine) wrote a fun and positive fiction book titled, *Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine*. It's the first in a three-book series of anthologies that are all, in one way or another, woven together with the common thread of wine. Photo courtesy of the author.

without having to commit the several hours or days that are needed to finish a novel.

Kristof adds: "Another advantage is that the format also allows the reader to randomly choose a story that interests them at the time, without having to follow any particular order."

Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine is worth the read and is available at several local wineries in their wine and gift boutiques, such as **Viewpointe Estate Winery** and **Cooper's Hawk Vineyards**. Local bookstores, including **Storytellers Bookstore** (1473 Ottawa Street, Windsor); **Biblioasis Bookshop** (1520 Wyandotte Street East, Windsor) and **River Bookshop** (67 Richmond Street, Amherstburg), also have it for sale.

In addition, the book is available at online retailers such as **Amazon**, **Indigo**, **Barnes & Noble** and others.

To connect with the author and read his bio, go to: [StephenKristof.com](http://StephenKristof.com). X

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