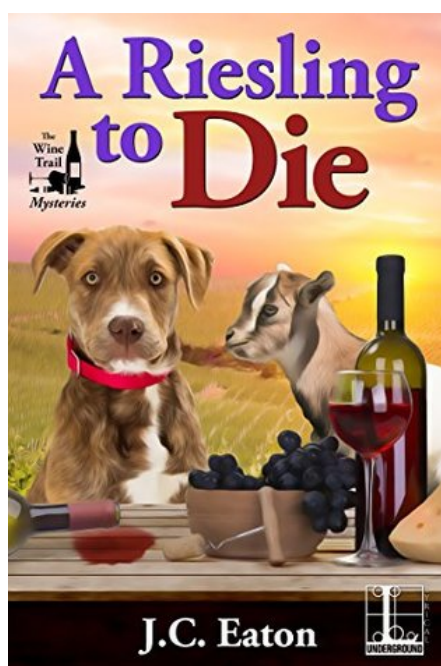




A Riesling to Die

J.C. Eaton

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A deadly search for sour grapes . . .

Norrie Ellington is a successful screenwriter living in New York City. She's also been a silent partner for her family's winery upstate—until her sister and brother-in-law take a year-long sabbatical. With an experienced staff doing the work, Norrie figures Two Witches Winery will run itself while she enjoys the countryside and writes in peace and quiet.

Unfortunately, there's a sour grape in the town of Penn Yan who doesn't care for vineyards. Bed and breakfast owner Elsbeth Waters complains to everyone who'll listen that the local wineries are bad for her business. But when Elsbeth's body is found on Norrie's property, the victim of foul play, the screenwriter-turned-vintner dons a sleuthing cap to uncover the identity of a killer who told the B&B proprietess to put a cork in it—permanently . . .

A Riesling to Die Details

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From Reader Review A Riesling to Die for online ebook

Patrizia says

4 stelle e mezza

Altro buon debutto, ma non ne dubitavo visto che già apprezzavo l'altra serie di questo autore (in realtà, credo che sia il nom de plume di una coppia sposata...). L'inizio mi ha subito conquistata e le investigazioni della protagonista, a parte il folle piano che a un certo punto mette in moto, mi hanno fatto dubitare di tutti, o quasi. In realtà, ben presto avevo trovato sospetto colui che poi è risultato colpevole, ma ciò non ha inficiato il piacere della lettura. Il secondo libro è già nella lista dei prossimi acquisti...

Brenda says

A Riesling to Die is the debut of The Wine Trail Mysteries series set in the upstate New York town of Penn Yan and featuring screenwriter Norrie Ellington. When her older sister, Francine, lays down a guilt trip and asks Norrie to come oversee the family winery, Two Witches so that she can accompany her husband, Jason, to Costa Rica on a scientific research grant, Norrie reluctantly caves in. With a full staff working at the winery Norrie won't really have to do anything but watch the grapes grow and work on her latest screenplay, right?

Just one week into her new position, Norrie is jolted out of bed by a knock at the door. A dead body has been discovered in a section of the vineyard. Francine had warned her that someone has been sabotaging Two Witches and the neighboring vineyards surrounding Lake Seneca, but wasn't sure if it was a group of developers looking to get their hands on the properties or if it was the meddlesome owner of the adjacent B&B who resented the influx of tourists into the region.

Determined to find the killer and save the winery, Norrie sets out with the help of her staff and the neighbors to solve the mystery. Partnered with her gassy sidekick, Charlie, an adorable Plott Hound, Norrie quickly finds herself in the midst of a screenplay that only she could have written.

A fast moving plot with lovable, yet somewhat eccentric, characters and a delightful Nigerian Dwarf goat will keep readers turning the pages. A twist at the end reveals many more adventures are in store for Norrie and her friends.

I received an advanced copy of A Riesling to Die from NetGalley via Lyrical Press, a division of Kensington Publishing. While not required to write a review I am more than happy to offer my honest opinion.

Tari says

This was the first book I've read by this author, also known as husband and wife writing team of Ann Goldfarb and Jim Clapp, but it definitely won't be my last. I'm going to start their other series very soon! I really loved this book and all the diverse and sometimes quirky characters. There were twists and turns throughout and I definitely didn't guess this killer.

Norrie Ellington was part owner of a winery in the Finger Lakes region of NY, but her day job was living in the city and writing screenplays. Her sister Francine and Francine's husband, Jason needed to go to Costa

Rica for Jason's entomology research, and they needed her to oversee management of the Two Witches Winery for a year. Norrie expected to simply sit on the sidelines, run a meeting every so often and possibly help with hiring summer temp employees. What she hadn't banked on was the murder of one of the community's most disliked person, Elsbeth Waters, who owned the local B&B. Since Norrie herself was a person of interest, she was determined to find the real killer. With the help of two new friends, Theo and Don, the couple who ran a neighboring winery, she was able to eventually figure things out and bring the real killer to justice. Alvin, the dwarf goat even had a hand, or should I say hoof, in catching the killer.

I think Theo and Don had to be my favorite characters! They were just all-round, textbook good friends to have. They listened, they had Norrie over for meals and they gave her their full support, not to mention loaning some employees if needed. Cammy seemed like a nice person too since Norrie had decided she was going to the one of the few people she told about her sleuthing. I got a kick out of Lizzie, a retired CPA who worked for the winery and had a super-charged interest in sleuthing like Nancy Drew. She didn't really help or hinder, but she made for an interesting character.

The book was well-written and I was actually glad it didn't get into the wine-making processes or anything technical because while I like the whole idea of a winery (setting, cool building etc) I'm not real interested in the processes. Maybe the tasting, though, lol. ;)

I'm really anxious for the next book to come out since there was a description at the end of the book telling briefly what will happen in it.

Linda says

If I were in upstate New York touring wineries, Two Witches Winery would be one of my stops. The cozy ambiance of the tasting room calls to visitors to sit, sip, and savor samples before making their take-home selections. Protagonist Norris Ellington is actually a successful screenwriter who's come to oversee the winery while her sister and brother-in-law travel to Costa Rica for a year. Norrie's inner Nancy Drew kicks in fast when the body of a querulous Bed and Breakfast owner turns up dead in the middle of some new vines the workers just planted!

A dangerous masquerade with two powerful businessmen could cork a killer or cost Norrie's family the winery. With a mixed bouquet of suspects, this debut story in the Wine Trail Mysteries will have readers putting their thinking caps on if they want to solve the mystery before the author reveal. I had one person tapped as suspicious, but couldn't figure out motive. Plenty of chuckles throughout the story, and a great supporting cast of characters for Norrie. Add a cute dwarf goat and a smart dog and this cozy is great entertainment.

I reviewed a digital ARC via NetGalley and the publisher.

JoAn says

A Riesling to Die by J.C. Eaton was a easy cozy mystery that captured my attention from the first.

Norrie Ellington is a successful screenwriter and a silent partner in her family's winery. Normally the winery is run by her sister and husband but they are off to Costa Rica for a year and Norrie is guilted into overseeing

the winery while they are gone. I liked Norrie although she often struck me as being easily overwhelmed and jumps to conclusions while sleuthing. J. C. Eaton does a fabulous job of describing the Finger Lakes district of New York; and the character development is well done as introductions into this first of a new cozy series. I liked many of the secondary characters and look forward to seeing them again as this series continues. A fast paced plot that flowed smoothly as the twists and turns take the reader to a reveal that I did not see coming.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from Lyrical Underground via NetGalley. All of the above opinions are my own.

Peggy R says

This is the first in a new series for author team J.C. Eaton. I have not previously read anything by these authors and the synopsis on this books sounded interesting so I decided to give it a try. I liked Norrie for the most part. She is a bit overwhelmed with trying to oversee her family's vineyard and continue her own job as a screenplay writer. She has a good personality and at first was hesitant to investigate the murder the occurred in her vineyards on her own. She quickly gets into sleuthing with the help of some of her employees and neighbors. I enjoyed her attempts to uncover the killer's identity until about 3/4 of the way into the book. They she decided on what I thought was a harebrained idea that could have serious repercussion for her family. For me that aspect didn't fit with the rest of the book.

I thought the mystery was well done and I was surprised by the identity of the killer. Norrie was all over the place with suspects so it was easy to get distracted.

I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher through Netgalley. This book is scheduled to be released on March 27, 2018

Lisa Morin says

This review fluctuates between 3.50 & 3.75.

I really wanted to like it a lot more than I did.

The main character had too much happening to really get to know her.

It seemed like things went to smoothly, there weren't as many twists and turns that I'd hoped for.

I would consider reading another book to give myself a second chance to get more familiar with the author's style.

I voluntarily read an ARC of this book provided by the publisher and NetGalley.

Fred says

A Riesling To Die is the first book in The Wine Trail Mysteries series.

Norrie Ellington, a successful screenwriter, has reluctantly agreed to manage the families winery, when her sister, Francine, tells her that she and her husband Josh are going to research a rare bug in the wilds of Costa

Rica. Norrie has been a “silent” partner and is somewhat familiar with the day to day operation and has started visiting the workers, many of she knows and is busy meeting the new ones. As she is talking with the tasting room manager, Cammy, Norrie is approached by a lady wanting to speak with Francine. After explaining to the lady that Francine is out the country, the lady tells her that she has filed a complaint with the county about their winery setting off cannon fire in the mornings. Cammy soon explains that the lady, Elsbeth Waters owns the B&B next to the winery and complains about everyone and everything in the Fingers Lake region. A day or two later as dawn was about to break, Norrie is raised out of her sleep, with pounding on her front door. She arrived at the door to find two of the field workers telling her there was an emergency in the vineyard. The workers led her to where a dead body lays and it turns out to be Elsbeth Waters.

Several of the local wineries meet on a regular basis to discuss what is going on in the area and try to help each other with similar problems. It is at one of these meetings that Norrie finds out that a land developer has been trying to buy up many of the local wineries to form a mega-winery and make it a tourist attraction.

With a great deal of help from Theo and Don, owners of The Grey Egret Winery, she sets out to clear the name of her Two Witches Winery in the death of Waters and hopefully learn who the killer is before any other deaths occur and in addition to put a stop to the land developers from acquiring any vineyards and turning the beautiful Finger Lakes into an amusement park atmosphere.

I found this story to be very entertaining and very well written with just the right amount of discussion about wineries, winemaking, and wines to be informative and not to overshadow the mystery itself. The story has a very good cast of believable and likable character and will be looking forward to learning more about them in future books.

I will be watching for the next in series to what Norrie will get up to next.

Jeanie says

This was an interesting first-in-series that taught me something new - I had no idea that there were vineyards and wineries in New York! While the characters were not my all-time favorites, they were each uniquely able to add something to the mix. The multi-tiered mystery is well written and one that I couldn't quite solve no matter how I tried.

I think my disappointment was with the protagonist, who made choices in an attempt to solve a mystery that were not quite what I might have chosen that could have had serious repercussions to the family. Norrie is a screenwriter who left the vineyard and winery behind when she left for college, then moved to Manhattan with a position as a screenwriter. She was still a silent partner in the business while her sister managed every aspect of the winery. Her husband had an opportunity to go to Costa Rica for a year to study a rare bug on a grant, so Norrie went back to New York to oversee the excellent managers her sister had in place - and write her screenplays in the meantime.

A woman who was troublesome to all of the vineyard owners around was found dead in the vineyard the morning after Norrie's sister and brother-in-law left. She didn't think the deputy was doing a good job investigating, so she decided to do some sleuthing herself. Her attempts to find the killer brought the questions right back around on herself, and it took some embarrassed honesty to get off the hook. She continued to search, however, to get the cloud of suspicion off of the family winery again.

I would definitely read another in the series, as the mystery is very well-written in spite of the protagonist.

While she made some bad decisions, her heart was in the right place, and this has definitely been a learning experience for her. And thankfully, with the lack of communication available to her sister in Costa Rica, Norrie's sister was spared the details until the killer/s was caught. I do still recommend this mystery for the overall suspense and intrigue, and look forward to the next one.

Glen says

A nice little cozy set in wine country of upstate New York.

Screen writer is forced to take over the family winery, even though she wants to stay in Manhattan, and live the Sex in The City lifestyle. She meets the quirky neighbors, and the obnoxious one is killed. Our plucky heroine tries to solve the mystery.

Nothing special, but not a bad way to spend an afternoon.

Kristen says

In J.C. Eaton's *A Riesling to Die For*, the first installment in the Wine Trail Mysteries Culinary cozy series, this debut new cozy series will knock you socks off and leave you begging for more. For Norrie Ellington, she's a screenplay writer for the Hallmark Channel. When her sister wants her to oversee the Two Witches Winery for her, while she's away in Costa Rica for a year with her husband Jason, Norrie wasn't sure and then decided to give her a helping hand. As she learned the lay of the vineyard and the winery business, she became entangled into her own mystery of her own. When the dead body of Elspeth Waters was found on the irrigation ditches, she decided to dig deep and learn more about Elspeth. With the help of her newest employees, she had her eye on a couple of culprits that ranged from business developers to fellow winery owners and even to her niece. But while she kept unearthing for clues, she almost placed herself in a delicate situation by falsing accusing others in the process. In the end, the truth was right under her nose, when she never expected someone who would want to do her in too.

Kristina says

A Riesling to Die is the first novel in *The Wine Trail Mysteries*. Norrie Ellington, a screenwriter, has reluctantly agreed to oversee the Two Witches Vineyard, in which she is a co-owner, for a year while her sister and her husband go off to Costa Rica on a research trip. Norrie believes that with the experienced winery staff, her role will be minimal which will leave her plenty of quiet time to write. The day after Francine and Jason leave the local crank is found dead in the new Riesling vines. Norrie decides to investigate the matter because the winery cannot afford to lose money or have bad publicity. She starts asking questions and believes she has discovered the guilty party. Norrie hatches with a plan to get the individual to confess. Unfortunately, things do not go quite as expected. Join Norrie at the Two Witches Vineyard in her search for a killer in *A Riesling to Die*.

A Riesling to Die is a light cozy mystery. Norrie is one of those main characters that babbles when nervous and turns into a blithering idiot in front of a handsome man. There was a lack of development in Norrie's character. The author fails to provide her background which would establish the character (any of the characters). There are some unique people working in the tasting room of the winery. Glenda, Roger, Lizzie

and Cammy provide comic relief along with Cammy's cousin, Marc and Enzo (they cracked me up). There is also a dog that manages to get into smelly messes every day (it makes me wonder if these people have not heard of a leash or a fenced in area for dogs) and Alvin, the spitting dwarf goat that is an attraction for children (just what every vineyard needs when you have guests wandering about). The mystery was straightforward, and the identity of the guilty party came as no surprise. Norrie's investigation was proceeding nicely until she came up a harebrained scheme to reel in who she believes is the killer (she jumped to conclusions instead of following the evidence and thinking things through). The grand plan jeopardizes the winery and reminds me of Lucy Ricardo's schemes. Norrie's spends a significant amount of time speculating on who could have committed the crime. You can really see her overactive imagination at work. All the loose ends are wrapped up at the end of the story. A Riesling to Die had a good start, but then it stalled out for a while and then it became foolish. There is some interesting information about growing grapes, taking care of the vines, running a vineyard and producing wines. I am curious how many dead people will turn up in the area during Norrie's year at Two Witches Winery (maybe the author will throw in a burglary). A Riesling to Die is a quick read that will appeal to readers who prefer lighter cozy mysteries filled with quirky characters. The next book in The Wine Trail Mysteries is Chardonnayed to Rest.

Carrie says

A Riesling to Die by J.C. Eaton is the first book in the new cozy The Wine Trail Mysteries series. Norrie Ellington has been asked to return home to upstate New York by her sister to oversee the family business, Two Witches Winery. Norrie's sister and her brother in law have been given a grant to study a species of insect in Costa Rica for the next year and while Norrie has made her life in New York City she would be able to continue her job as a successful screenwriter anywhere.

While she's a silent partner in the winery Norrie has really had no interest in learning the actual business or running it but she finds she just can't say no and hold her sister back. Upon arriving back home Norrie finds herself quickly learning the ins and outs of the business and those employees that help run the winery and keep it successful.

The one person Norrie doesn't find welcoming upon her return is neighbor Elsbeth Waters who runs the local bed and breakfast. Norrie's encounter with Elsbeth didn't go well with the irate neighbor complaining of the family dog coming upon her property. Little did Norrie expect though was to find Elsbeth dead body in the vineyard and with so many disliking the B&B owner Norrie decides to help the police solve the murder.

Having read another series by J.C. Eaton and really enjoying it I had high hopes for The Wine Trail Mysteries. While I didn't think this was a perfect start to the cozy series leaving me to rate this at 3.5 stars I did however still enjoy this beginning. What I really found myself wishing for with this one though was a bit more into building the characters and suspects. The beginning felt a little slow building the setting but the characters felt a bit buried in that too. I would still give the next book a go though knowing the authors' other work.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Betty says

The cover will draw you into the book of a new series. Both animals in the cover, Charlie, a mix breed dog and Alvin, a goat are secondary characters in the book. The characters are well developed and the descriptions of the area will place you there.

Norie Ellington, a screenwriter has agreed to take over the family vineyard in Penn San, New York for a year. Upon arrival, Norie meets Elsbeth Waters an owner of a local B&B who complains repeatedly about the vineyards noise. Later Elsbeth's body is found on the family's property and Norie decided to investigate in order that mystery is solved. After many twists and turns, Norie finds the answer but not before foolishly putting herself in danger. I recommend this book.

Disclosure: Many thanks to Kensington Books for my copy for review. The opinions expressed are my own.

RO G'ma says

A Riesling to Die is the debut book in J.C. Eaton's (the husband and wife writing team of Ann I. Goldfarb and James E. Clapp) The Wine Trail Mysteries series. The story flowed smoothly with a steadily paced plot, twists and turns, and a well-developed cast of characters. A few of the eccentric characters, a Nigerian Dwarf goat named Alvin and a Brindle Plott Hound named Charlie add humorous moments to this whodunit.

Norrie Ellington is a successful screenwriter living in Manhattan, New York and a silent partner in Two Witches Winery, her family's winery in Penn Yan. Her older sister and brother-in-law, Francine and Jason Keane, are spending a year in Costa Rica while Jason researches a bug and Francine asks Norrie to temporarily move to the winery and oversee operations. Norrie is hesitant and reluctantly agrees since the staff is experienced to do the work and she hopes she'll be able to enjoy the peaceful countryside and work on her writing. Elsbeth Waters, the owner of Peaceful Pines B&B, is upset about the cannons the local wineries utilize to keep the birds, deer, rabbits, and foxes away from the grapes among many other things were bad for her business. Francine tells Norrie there's a development company, Vanna Enterprises, owned by Lucas Stilton and his partner, Declan Roth, that wants to buy out the small wineries and build a mega-winery and that they believe the company might be trying to sabotage them. Francine explains that she and Jason will be off the grid, but that Theo Buchman and his life partner, Don, who own the Grey Egret, and Henry Speltmore, the president of the wine association and will help her if she encounters any problems with the developer. The morning after Francine and Jason leave, two vineyard workers wake Norrie up with the news that they found a body while working on the irrigation system in a new vineyard. Norrie identifies the deceased as Elsbeth Waters. When the death is ruled as suspicious, Norrie doesn't want to wait while Yates County Deputy Sheriff Gary Hickman slowly investigates. Determined to uncover the identity of the killer so the vineyard can resume normal operations, Norrie slips on her sleuthing cap and seeks guidance and help from some of the vineyard's employees and neighbors. Deputy Sheriff Gary Hickman advises her to mind her own business, but she believes the murder is her business and rushes forward, jumping to conclusions, and placing herself in harm's way.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.
