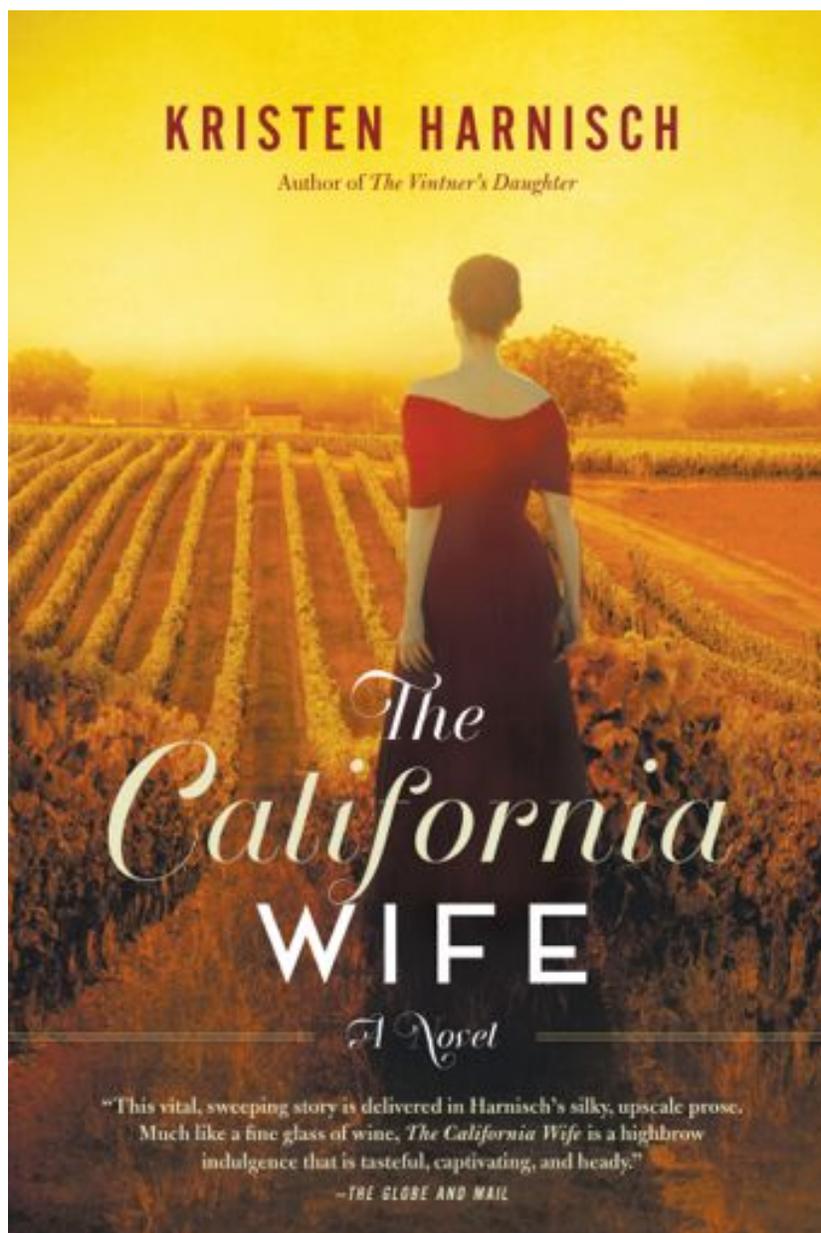


Press Kit

THE CALIFORNIA WIFE

By Kristen Harnisch



ISBN: 978-1-63152-087-7, Paperback, 419 pages, \$17.95, 6 x 9, Fiction
E-book, \$10.95



**PRAISE FOR
THE CALIFORNIA WIFE
By Kristen Harnisch**

ISBN: 978-1-63152-087-7, Paperback, 419 pages, \$17.95, 6 x 9, Fiction, She Writes Press

**A Pulpwood Queens Book Club Pick for June 2016
& Best Bonus Book Winner for 2016**

A 2016 USA Best Book Award Finalist

A 2017 International Book Award Finalist for Historical Fiction

Girls Night Out Wines Book Club Pick for March 2016

“Harnisch’s **lyrical descriptions** underscore the beauty of winemaking, political activism, and even surgery. Combined with her first novel, *The California Wife* feels like the second season of a period miniseries, best enjoyed with a glass of zinfandel.”—**Booklist**

“Kristen Harnisch’s follow-up to her wine-soaked debut, *The Vintner’s Daughter*, is just as sumptuous as her first offering. . . . **This vital, sweeping story** is delivered in Harnisch’s silky, upscale prose. **Much like a fine glass of wine, *The California Wife* is a highbrow indulgence that is tasteful, captivating and heady.**”—**The Globe & Mail**

“*The Vintner’s Daughter* was an enjoyable romantic saga, and this new entry, which spans 1897 to 1906, is even more involving. **Harnisch has hit her stride as a writer** . . . The story brings readers deeply into the economics of the wine industry – a unique historical fiction subject . . . **Readers will enjoy being whisked back in time to Napa’s beginnings as a major wine-producing region, and the stage is set for future adventures with these warm-hearted, ambitious characters.**”—**Historical Novels Review**

“It was easy to get lost in the pages of *The California Wife*, Harnisch’s compelling new novel. **Harnisch is adept at creating determined, complex characters, whose combination of strength and vulnerability make them irresistible.** Her admirable ability to bring forth a strong sense of place made every glorious detail of the Napa Valley sparkle: I wanted to reach for a glass of wine as I read. This sweeping tale is **a true delight!**”—**Linda Holeman**, International Bestselling author of *The Linnet Bird* and *The Lost Souls of Angelkov*

“*The California Wife* is not only **an accurate and nostalgic account of the early history of our wine industry** in California, it’s a lovely novel with characters you want join in a harvest, a meal, and a glass of wine. **I recommend this book to wine lovers and historical fiction fans alike!**”—**Tina Vierra**, Associate Publisher, *Wines & Vines*

"... a **vivid, fine-tuned** novel about two fiercely ambitious and determined people who face obstacles that would bring most of us to our knees. Harnisch's skillful blend of 19th-century societal norms and details about wine-making practices never overwhelm the characters but enrich them, captivating the heart. **You'll long remember this beautiful story about redemption, forgiveness, love, and family bonds.**" —Ann Weisgarber, author of *The Promise* and *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree*

"A passionate novel set in the beautiful Napa Valley in the early 1900s. You'll cheer for Sarah Lemieux as she tries to balance, love, family, and independence in a time when women were expected to obey. **Rich in history, passion, and community, *The California Wife* is a novel that continues to surprise until the very end.**"—Marci Nault, author of *The Lake House*

"Fans of historical fiction, heart-pounding romance, and remarkable women look no further. Kristen Harnisch does more than craft a rollicking good tale in intriguing locales; she transports you back in time through engaging dialogue, complex characters, and vivid description. Sara is no shrinking violet, and as she travels from France to the Napa Valley she learns how to channel her passions to build the life she's always dreamed of. An exquisite read from start to finish."—Alexandria Brown, Napa County Historical Society Research Librarian

"As seasoned wine country travelers, we see the present-day struggles of small, family-owned wineries and know how difficult it is to become successful. Winemakers are constantly at the mercy of unpredictable weather and must work long hours to ensure a good product and profitable wine sales. Kristen **Harnisch does a remarkable job of transporting us back 100 years and gives us an authentic feel for what it was like to make wine at that time** without the benefit of enology and viticulture programs or the advances of modern-day science. Sara and Philippe's love for each other helps them face hidden family secrets, threats from a rival winemaker and a tragedy that could destroy everything they have."—Joe and Janelle Becerra, *Winecountrygetaways.com*

"Rich with setting and story, Kristen Harnisch pulled me deep into the Napa Valley vineyards and through the streets of San Francisco in her lovely turn-of-the-twentieth century story, *The California Wife*. Harnisch weaves history and family passion together so seamlessly that **I had to remind myself I was reading fiction. This is a simply stunning follow-up to *The Vintner's Daughter*. Both enlightening and delightful. Bravo!**"—Carla Stewart, Award-winning author of *Stardust* and *A Flying Affair*

Guest posts, stories, and interviews available on Reading Group Choices, Reading the Past, The Writer's Dig, and more!



Photo credit: Alix Martinez Photography

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Internationally published author **Kristen Harnisch** drew upon her extensive research and her experiences living in San Francisco and visiting the Loire Valley and Paris to create the stories for **THE CALIFORNIA WIFE** and her first novel, **THE VINTNER'S DAUGHTER**. Ms. Harnisch has a degree in economics from Villanova University and currently resides in Connecticut with her husband and three children.

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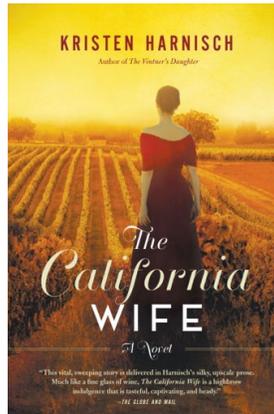
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For immediate release

THE CALIFORNIA WIFE

By Kristen Harnisch



(Knoxville, TN, May, 10, 2016) Beginning in the same scene in which her first novel ended, Harnisch's sweeping sequel (which also works as a stand-alone) takes us back to 1897, when Sara Thibault has returned to France following the devastating end to her relationship with Philippe Lemieux, the vintner with whom she fell in love in California.

Reunited and soon to be wed, Sara and Philippe struggle to manage two vineyards, his much-esteemed Eagle's Run in Napa Valley and her humble family vineyard, Saint Martin, in the Loire Valley. Philippe, used to making his own decisions, doesn't always include Sara, and she, fully aware of her talents as a vintner, challenges his omissions head-on at home and in the streets with other Suffragettes. Troubles abound: the specter of Prohibition threatens their livelihood as do rival vintners, and ghosts from Philippe's past might unravel the family he has just begun to build. As tensions mount, Sara welcomes the proximity of her dear friend Marie, a midwife who is the first woman selected to study surgery at Cooper Medical College in San Francisco.

From managing a new marriage to managing new businesses, from the Paris World's Fair in 1900 to a small vineyard in France, from the rough streets of San Francisco to its newest college, Sara and her family charge into the 20th century—and readers will readily follow, rooting for them through every page.

Internationally published author **Kristen Harnisch** drew upon her extensive research and her experiences living in San Francisco and visiting the Loire Valley and Paris to create the stories for **THE CALIFORNIA WIFE** and her first novel, **THE VINTNER'S DAUGHTER**. Ms. Harnisch has a degree in economics from Villanova University and currently resides in Connecticut with her husband and three children. Visit her online at the following places:

<https://www.kristenharnisch.com>

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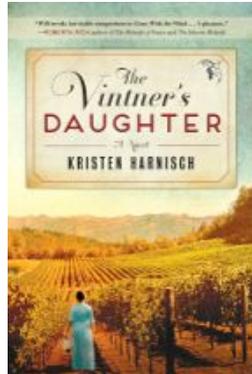
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**Selected Honors & Praise
for
*THE VINTNER'S DAUGHTER***



A #1 International Amazon Bestseller

A Pulpwood Queens Book Club Pick for February 2015



**A 2015 Readers' Favorite International Book Contest Bronze Award Winner
for Historical Fiction**

Staff Pick, Books By the Sea and Barrett Bookstores

Listed on Reading Group Choices' "40 Books to Enjoy this Summer"

A *Savvy Verse & Wit* Best Book of 2014

**Named "Best Fun Fictional Wine Book" and "A Great Escape Book for Wine Lovers" by
Wine Country Getaways**

"[A] fast-moving romantic saga about two independent, ambitious people hoping to succeed in winemaking....This relaxing summer read offers **an enjoyable armchair voyage to wine country.**"—
Historical Novels Review

"One of the novel's highlights is its rich history of the wine-making process through the eyes of a woman who is passionate and meticulous about each step.... In the beginning, [Sara] endures nonstop pain and loss, but these tragedies transform her from a smart, hardworking girl into an independent, resourceful woman. At its core, *The Vintner's Daughter* is a story of perseverance and transcending one's past."—***Booklist***

"A young French woman, determined to pursue her dreams, shows resourcefulness and endurance as she journeys from her home to America in a novel set in the late 1800s....the plot is engaging and well-paced. Wine aficionados and fans of romance and historical fiction will drink this in."—***Kirkus Reviews***

“Lush and evocative, this novel brings the Loire Valley and its glorious vineyards to life in a story that will delight readers everywhere. Enjoy with your favorite glass of Merlot!” —**Adriana Trigiani**, bestselling author of ***The Shoemaker’s Wife***

“A lovely novel with **sparkling dialogue, intricate plot and great characters.** This tale of a young girl determined to hold onto to her beloved father’s vineyard in the Loire Valley will invoke inevitable comparisons to *Gone with the Wind*. Sara is a girl with grit and determination, and seizes what she wants from life with both hands, evolving over the course of the novel from an impetuous, headstrong girl to a mature woman. **A pleasure.**”—**Roberta Rich**, author of ***The Harem Midwife*** and ***The Midwife of Venice***

Kristen Harnisch, *In Conversation*



Photo credit to Alix Martinez Photography

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Your novels have been praised for the window they open into the early world of wine making in America and elsewhere. Was the process of grape-to-table as fascinating to you as it is to Sara?

Absolutely! Winemaking is both a science and an art. When I visited the wineries of the Loire and Napa Valleys, I became enthralled with this time-consuming process. These winemakers exhibit such grit and passion for what they do. When growing the grapes, they must choose the right soil and conditions, the proper varietals to plant, and they have to contend with unpredictable weather and the threats of mildew, rot, blight and more. Then they have to decide when to harvest—and how long to ferment and age the wines. Once the vintage is ready to drink, they have to determine how to price it and where to sell it. Back at the turn of the twentieth century, winemakers like my characters Sara and Philippe Lemieux didn't have the benefit of viticulture programs or scientific advances. California winemakers were just starting to receive recognition in a market that for centuries had been dominated by French and European vintages. As you can see, there's such inherent drama in the discipline of winemaking, how could I *not* write a series about it?

Your latest novel works as a stand-alone as well as a sequel. Will each successive title work in this way as well?

Yes, each novel in the series will read as a stand-alone story. I want readers to feel that they can pick up any of my novels and have an immediate understanding of each character's journey. More importantly, I want to pull readers so deeply into Sara, Philippe and Marie's worlds that they don't want to leave—except maybe to visit the vineyards in California or France!

***The California Wife* charts the rise of feminism and the effect that the movement has on Sara—although she was always independent. What intrigues you about this subject?**

Sara Lemieux is a spirited young lady who believes in a woman's right to vote, run her own business and earn a fair wage. However, Sara's also a winemaker, which presents quite a problem at the turn of the twentieth century because the majority women's rights advocates of the day were part of the temperance movement—and in favor of a Prohibition of alcohol. Will Sara stand against her family's wine business to campaign for women's rights—and the future rights she wants to secure for her daughter? Not if her husband, Philippe, has his way. The path

of progress is always set with stumbling blocks. How people/characters tackle these obstacles is what fascinates me.

***The California Wife* widens its perspective to examine another couple's choices and lives. Why the larger lens?**

This novel started as the continuation of Sara and Philippe's story about their new life together as they work to build an American winemaking dynasty. However, as I researched the era from 1897-1906, there were so many exciting trends that unfolded: the women's rights and prohibition movements, the Paris World's Fair, new modes of transportation, and the increasing enrollment of women in colleges and medical schools (to name a few!). This made me think: how would another woman—like Sara's friend and midwife Marie Chevreau—take advantage of these societal changes?

In *The California Wife*, Marie reappears just when Sara could use a friend. Marie is the first surgery student to be admitted to the prestigious Cooper Medical College in San Francisco. She is smart and driven, but she comes from humble beginnings. When she attracts the attention of her anatomy professor, the son of a wealthy iron tycoon, she's thrust into the glittering world of San Francisco's high society. Through Marie's new relationship, Sara—and readers—will glimpse another, equally intriguing side to city life in the Bay Area during the early twentieth century.

You describe yourself as a write-at-home mom rather than a work-at-home mom. Do you approach writing as a business?

I like to use the term “write-at-home mom” because writing for me is first and foremost a passion—and a way to escape the more mundane tasks of motherhood, like laundry and chauffeuring! However, it's imperative to approach writing as a business, because as an author you have deadlines, and so much of your success depends on the quality of your writing *and* the marketing and publicity of your work.

You have to let me ask: what pairings do you suggest for your novels?

I love this question! I'll offer a few suggestions for each, depending on reader preferences (and which scenes you're reading!). Keep this list on hand for book club...!

The Vintner's Daughter pairs very well with a Carneros/Napa Valley Pinot Noir or Chardonnay—or a Vouvray Pinot Gris.

The California Wife pairs best with a full-bodied Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, old-vine Zinfandel, or a sparkling Rosé.