SOMM: Into the Bottle
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If you have a few friends who would like to get a really good understanding of the fuss surrounding the wine industry and why people are so passionate about the business of wine, then you should pop a bottle and watch the recently released film titled Somm: Into the Bottle. This is actually the sequel to the celebrated documentary SOMM, which you should also watch.

The first film, SOMM, released in 2013, follows four real-life sommeliers, Ian Cauble, Brian McClintic, Dustin Wilson and D’Lynn Proctor, into the world of the Court of Master Sommeliers and the massively intimidating Master Sommelier (MS) Exam. The exam these folks are trying to pass is one of the most difficult in the world, with the lowest pass rate. After 40 years, fewer than 200 persons have attained the elusive Master Sommelier diploma. SOMM takes us on the journey into their lives as they attempt to achieve this goal. In reality, the movie SOMM is not really about wine, it’s really about four guys trying to pass a very difficult set of wine tests, and it exposes the level of sacrifice, stress and passion that’s associated in the attempt to breathe the rarefied air that comes along with the title of the MS. In the end, two pass and two do not, but not who you would think. A year later another one passes the test, and as I write this the last person is still slogging away. While the second film features all four sommeliers, it is not really a sequel. Instead, this new movie, released in January this year, talks about the history, politics, pleasure, and the nonsense of wine told through opening 10 very different bottles.

Strangely, I would suggest that you watch the second documentary Somm: Into the Bottle before Somm, because if you are not a wine geek or have a passing interest in wine, you might lose interest and a number of the issues might seem dull to you.

Both movies are thoroughly entertaining and informative. In the end it's really all about you and your experience: did you enjoy the bottle of wine or not? Translating the pleasure of drinking wine onto these pages or into film is usually a difficult task, but I believe that collectively both films will leave viewers with a greater appreciation of the world of wine and its associated pleasures.

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