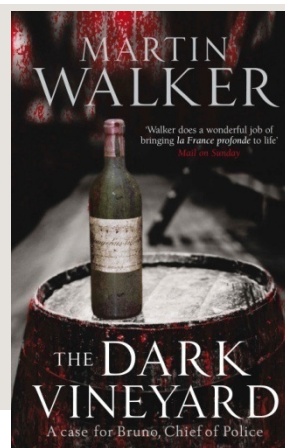


Title	The Dark Vineyard
Author	Martin Walker
ISBN	9781847249166
Imprint	Quercus
Binding	Trade paperback
Extent	304 pages
Dimensions	234 x 153mm
RRP	\$29.95
Release Date	July 2009



A new case for St Denis' incomparable Chief of Police, Captain Bruno Courrèges, in this second installment of a series set in rural France

Description

Just before dawn one late-summer morning, Bruno is pulled from sleep by the wail of the town siren atop the *Mairie*, summoning the volunteer firemen of St Denis. A large barn and the fields surrounding it are ablaze. When Bruno arrives at the scene, the smell of petrol leaves no doubt – it was arson.

Soon after, a wine mogul from California visits the town with plans to buy up half the valley to create an industrial-scale wine-producing operation. Such a business would bring a healthy injection of dollars to St Denis, plus the creation of at least fifty jobs. Bruno's boss, the Mayor, supports the scheme but Bruno is less convinced. He's not against progress, but he fears his little town will never be the same once the Californians have a foothold. Then a second, similar outrage follows the crop burning. It appears that someone is determined to stop the scheme and is prepared to go to any lengths – including murder – to do so. Bruno must use all his skills, tact and local knowledge to negotiate a minefield in order to reach the truth.

Sales Points

- 'Walker's relaxed style and good humour bring to life his engaging hero and delightful home and make this one of the most enjoyable books I've read in a long time' – *Sunday Telegraph*
- The first novel in the series, *Bruno, Chief of Police*, was published to rave reviews and sold over 2,500 copies in its first month of release (ISBN: 9781847249777, RRP: \$29.95)
- All things French – food, wine, eccentric characters and a beguiling Gallic hero – are here in abundance

Author Profile

Martin Walker was educated at Balliol College, Oxford and Harvard. In 25 years with the *Guardian*, he served as Bureau Chief in Moscow and, in the US, as European Editor. In addition to his prize-winning journalism, he wrote and presented the BBC series 'Martin Walker's Russia' and 'Clintonomics'. He has written several acclaimed works of non-fiction, including *The Cold War: A History*. He spends his summers in his house in the Dordogne. Visit Bruno's website at www.brunochiefofpolice.com.