



Chardonnayed to Rest

J.C. Eaton

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Finding a murderer requires 100% proof.

In Seneca Lake, New York, Norrie Ellington's Two Witches Winery has been selected by the local vintner community to host the annual Federweisser, a celebration of the season's first fermentation of white Chardonnay grapes. But the festivities are spoiled when Norrie learns that landowner Roy Wilkes has raised her neighbor Rosalee Marbelton's rent so high, she may have to close her vineyard.

Before the rent hike could go into effect, Wilkes is found dead on Roslae's property—stabbed by a flowerpot stake—and she becomes the police's number one suspect. To clear her friend's name, Norrie conducts her own investigation. But as she gathers clues, Norrie finds herself targeted by a killer, and if she's not careful, her desire to see justice done may die on the vine . . .

Chardonnayed to Rest Details

Date : Published September 25th 2018 by Lyrical Underground

ISBN :

Author : J.C. Eaton

Format : Kindle Edition 231 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review Chardonnayed to Rest for online ebook

Kirsti says

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for the chance to read this book!

I'm so glad to have discovered yet another excellent cozy mystery book! I loved this from the first moment, despite this being the second book and I hadn't read the first. It's just one of those series that you can jump straight into, thankfully. To begin with, we have an excellent sleuth with her motley collection of trusted friends either encouraging or actively working with her to catch the killer. We have plenty of leads and no one person really stands out, although I had my suspicions. Theo and Dom stand out as two great characters that Norrie can rely upon to help, and I loved their interactions.

Not too much romance in this one (yet) but I know who I'd like Norrie to pick if it comes down it. There's an unexpected cutie here, and I can't wait to see more of him!

A really excellent cozy series, I highly recommend it. Five stars!

Kathleen Gray says

Roy is the classic cozy villain- he's hiked rents and been a rat to lots of people- and he's found dead on the property Rosalee rents from him. Luckily for Rosie, Norrie, a wannabe scriptwriter who is keeping an eye on her family's vineyard, decides she'll investigate. This one had the right elements but for me, at least, fell short, Maybe Norrie was a little out there, maybe it was the implausibility of Norrie not only babysitting the vineyard but also hosting a big event, but for some reason, this one did not resonate with me. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.

Maria says

The story was good. It kept me interested until about halfway through then the MC's antics became too much. Norrie did so many things that made no sense. It made it difficult to get invested in the story. But I love the other characters in the series.

Laura M says

In this second of the Wine Trail mysteries (A Riesling to Die was the first), we find Norrie back at the vineyard she is watching for her sister and brother-in-law while he is abroad with the family studying a rare insect. Things have calmed down a bit from the last body they found, but unfortunately, a new corpse is found, and is a landowner that was giving a hard time to Norrie's friend. Guess who becomes the primary suspect? Especially when the murder weapon turns out to belong to the friend. Yup – things aren't looking good, and soon the friend is asking for Norrie's help because of her stellar work finding the killer the first time around.

I tried. I really did. I read the first book and enjoyed it, so when I had the opportunity from NetGalley and the

publisher to read this one, I jumped at it. It was fun to hear back from the original characters and see what they have been up to, but it just didn't MOVE for me. I tried to go back several times and pick it back up, but I just couldn't finish, and I'm not even all that interested to find out who the killer was. Unfortunately, this might be the last book in the series for me. It's not that it was BAD, but because I am not invested in the characters yet, I am giving up. There are just too many other books to read. Maybe if I were a wine drinker I would find it more interesting?

Brenda says

Chardonnayed to Rest is the second installment in the Wine Trail Mysteries series set in upstate New York near Seneca Lake. Screenwriter Norrie Ellington is settling in to her temporary position of watching over the families Two Witches Winery while her sister and brother in law continue their search for an elusive bug in Costa Rica.

Two Witches has been chosen to host the annual Fedderweisser, the first harvest of the Chardonnay grapes. Anxious for things to run smoothly, Norrie is saddened to hear that neighboring vineyard owner Rosalee Marbleton is having troubles with getting enough water for her grapes. She and her sister Marilyn had purchased a waterline that ran through a neighbors property and brought water to her vines, but those owners had sold the property and the new owner, Roy Wilkes has raised her rent beyond her means.

When Roy is found stabbed to death on Rosalee's property, and with one of her ornamental planter stakes, it doesn't take long for Deputy "Grizzly Gary" Hickman to take her in for questioning. Able to prove that she's innocent, Rosalee begs Norrie to help track down the killer since the police now have their eyes on other members of her staff.

A fast paced plot with likable characters and just a touch of insight into the world of a vintner. Things are starting to heat up in the romance department for Norrie and I'm hoping the author doesn't head towards the dreaded love triangle.

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

The Cozy Review says

In Seneca Lake, New York, Norrie Ellington's Two Witches Winery has been selected by the local vintner community to host the annual Federweisser, a celebration of the season's first fermentation of white Chardonnay grapes. But the festivities are spoiled when Norrie learns that landowner Roy Wilkes has raised her neighbor Rosalee Marbleton's rent so high, she may have to close her vineyard.

Before the rent hike could go into effect, Wilkes is found dead on Rosalee's property, stabbed to death, and she becomes the number one suspect. To clear her friend's name, Norrie conducts her investigation. But as she gathers clues, Norrie finds herself targeted by a killer, and if she's not careful, her desire to see justice done may die on the vine.

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Series: The Wine Trail Mysteries - Book 2
Author: J.C. Eaton (Ann I. Goldfarb & James E. Clapp)
Genre: Cozy Mystery
Publisher: Lyrical Underground

The work of J.C. Eaton (Ann I. Goldfarb & James E. Clapp) is always original. Their combined skill makes just about anything they write entertaining and fun. Chardonnayed to Rest is the second book in the "Wine Trail Mysteries" series. The writing is easy to follow with smooth transitions.

Norrie Ellington is a bit preoccupied with her own interests. Her writing career is on the line if she doesn't meet her deadlines. Unfortunately, the winery and murder keep getting in the way. It is easy-to-understand Norrie's self-absorption. What writer worth a dime isn't self-centered? But this character takes things a bit too far.

Norrie is supposed to be looking after her family winery, which her sister- and brother-in-law take care of, while they are away for a year. She isn't good at it. In truth, if this were real life, the winery would already be shut down with Norrie in charge. She pays no attention to the winery business, and it would be astounding if it actually made money and stayed afloat. The character is just a bit too inattentive, and her interests take precedence over everything, and everyone else. It appears that if her neighbor hadn't been accused of murder, she wouldn't even be aware that someone had died, or of the festival her winery is hosting, or anything else that takes place throughout the story. To put it simply, Norrie is not a pleasant character. Other characters are hugely more attractive to readers.

Rosalee, with her straightforward manner, and her ability not to know when to stay silent is endearing. Don and Theo are adorable as a couple and as neighbors. They play a pivotal part in the investigation and find most of the interesting clues. Readers will want to learn more about them and follow their antics in future books. The victim, although not necessarily likable is intriguing. The more information that is uncovered about him, the more the reader will want to know why, and who killed him.

The wine country setting is exciting. Having competing wineries working together and helping each other is a delightful idea that would be great in a world where it's every man for himself. A sticking point for some readers will be the name of Norrie's winery; Two Witches Winery can be misleading to readers who think they are getting a paranormal/witch-based cozy.

There is some humor in this book and an interesting plot. When the killer is revealed, it won't come as a surprise but how it transpires might. In the end, if a reader is looking for a quick read where they don't have to do a lot of deep thinking to figure out what is going on or who the killer is, then Chardonnayed to Rest is for them.

Cris (The Biblio Blonde) says

Chardonnayed to Rest was the second book in a series set in the Finger Lakes wine region of NY. Loved the setting of these books... it sounds beautiful and the winery trail community sounds like it would be a great place to visit!

In this book, an area resident is found dead and suspicion falls on the owner of a nearby vineyard. Norrie,

still at Two Witches Winery, investigates and gets herself into hot water again. The story culminates in a festival at the winery, accompanied by a couple of new friends Norrie has made, pandemonium in the form of quilters and bowlers, and a lot of wine!

There's a lot to like about this series, including the setting, some quirky characters... and did I mention wine? I almost felt like too many characters were introduced and I had to really work to keep track of them - true of the first book in the series also. All in all, 3.5 stars, and if you're a wine lover, round up to 4!!

Thanks to Net Galley and the publisher for a complimentary copy of this title.

Dez Nemec says

Chardonnayed to Rest is the second of the Wine Trail Mysteries, following *A Riesling to Die*. Having read the first, I was naturally curious to see what Norrie Ellington was up to at the Two Witches Winery. At the outset of the first book, we are told that Norrie has reluctantly agreed to oversee the family winery while her sister and brother-in-law take a year to go to Costa Rica to study bugs. As we know it is only supposed to last for a year (although there are more hints here that the BIL's grant may get extended and last longer), this book takes place a mere 2 months after the first.

Norrie is busily writing screenplays and attempting to enter the busy season at the winery. At the monthly winery owners meeting, she hears that Rosalee, owner of Terrace Winery, is having problems with the new owner of the neighboring property. Her water supply runs under his land and he has jacked up the prices for the land use. She's stuck with it because obviously without water, there are no grapes. A few days later, Rosalee finds the owner, Roy Wilkes, dead near the pump house. Rosalee calls Norrie and demands that she comes over and investigate. Upon arriving at the scene, Deputy Hickman, whom by now Norrie considers her nemesis, warns Norrie to stay away from investigation. Naturally, Norrie doesn't listen and embarks with Theo and Don on a mission to save the day.

Just like in the first, the characters are unique, even the new ones added into the mix. This book has a little more danger for Norrie, but of course all turns out well. I did think the murderer was obvious, although the motive wasn't.

Looking forward to the next one, although near the end, Norrie does think: "At least I knew one thing—I was never, ever, going to go out on a limb to solve another murder. That was my plan on paper, anyway." Sure....

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lghiggins says

Chardonnayed to Rest is a fun, cozy mystery authored by the husband and wife team that goes by the name J.C. Eaton. It features wineries in Penn Yan, New York. The winery owners there support each other and collaborate on various projects such as the Federweisser celebration which is slated this year to be held at the Two Witches Winery. Norrie, a successful screenwriter is maintaining her career while taking over supervision of the family winery for a year for her sister who is hunting an elusive bug in Costa Rica. With

an experienced staff, what could possibly go wrong? Unfortunately, a murder occurs at the winery across from Two Witches.

Norrie does some unofficial sleuthing with friends Don and Theo of the Grey Egret winery. Along the way she meets a handsome lawyer and a likable entomologist. There are also some attempts on Norrie's life. Someone is arrested for the murder, but Norrie is convinced that they have the wrong person, and she is determined to prove it.

Chardonnayed to Rest moves quickly and has lots of suspects and a resolution I didn't see coming. Some parts were amusing and some caught me laughing out loud. I can't wait to see what adventures await Norrie in the next book in the Wine Trail Mysteries.

I would like to extend my thanks to netgalley.com and to Lyrical Underground (Kensington Press) for giving me the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Norrie Ellington is managing the family winery while her sister Francine and her husband Jason spend a year in Costa Rica searching for a rare bug. Norrie is a screenwriter who has her own deadline to make, so she's needing all the free time she can get to finish it.

Unfortunately, it won't be this week, and possibly not the next, either. Her friend and a fellow winery owner, Rosalee Marbleton tells Norrie that a newcomer to Penn Yan has bought land nearby that she has a pipeline for water running through, and he's raised the rent so high she may have to close her winery. But when Roy Wilkes's body is found by Rosalee she calls Norrie in a panic. Along with another winery owner, Theo, they investigate and sure enough, Roy is dead.

But when Rosalee's handyman Kelsey is arrested for the crime and it's implied that Rosalee may have put him up to it, she begs Norrie to find out the truth. Against her better judgment, Norrie agrees. But will digging into another murder find a killer or will it put her next on the list to die?

This is the second book in the series and I have to say that I liked it better than the first. The characters are starting to develop personalities and come into their own and I felt that this was lacking in the debut book, and Norrie is becoming more comfortable with the employees at the winery, even though she's not as fond of the place as is her sister.

There were, however, a couple of things that rankled me a bit: in the first book she met a couple of developers that were so "hot" she couldn't think straight; and in this book she meets an attorney and mentions that she's never met anyone so attractive. How hot is this guy? Does Norrie find one to surpass another around every corner? Then I get the feeling that a love triangle might be in the offering. Please, please no. Love triangles are never fun to read about at all, and take away pleasure in the book.

The other thing that bothered me is the fact that Norrie doesn't realize just how much like Deputy Gary she is. She decides one person is guilty and refuses to even consider anyone else might be the culprit. She just goes around trying to prove she's right. I get that she's a screenwriter and has a vivid imagination, but she should also think logically and look for clues, sifting through them to find the truth. Instead, she comes up with hair-brained schemes she decides will bring the killer to justice. While we, the readers, had a pretty good clue as to who the killer was because of a single act, Norrie was oblivious to that fact. Also, and I can't help but wonder about this, who is the sheriff in this town, and shouldn't a homicide detective be

investigating murders, not a town deputy? Just curious.

Aside from these things, I found that the story was written well and put together nicely. The reason for the murder was believable, and even the final confrontation - given the personalities involved - was believable as well.

I thought the bowlers and quilters were probably the funniest part of the story and even made me laugh out loud at one point, and I do love Norrie's "thoughts in her head." She's pretty sarcastic to herself, and it gives a bit of lightness to the story that keeps it moving along at a good pace. In the end, I thought this was a pretty decent book and a fairly quick read. The murder was tied up creditably, and I would like to see what the next in the series brings. Recommended.

Carrie says

Chardonnayed to Rest by J.C. Eaton is the second book in the cozy The Wine Trail Mysteries series. Each book in the series has it's own murder mystery to solve so they can be read as a standalone if choosing to do so.

Norrie Ellington had 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 had been given a grant to study a species of insect in Costa Rica for a 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.

After a couple months back at the winery and one successful murder case solved Norrie has settled in to her new role until her sister's return. But when a fellow neighbor stumbles on yet another dead body it isn't the law she calls but Norrie having made a name for herself in the crime solving department.

Another great cozy read from the husband and wife team of J.C. Eaton. This second book improved over the first installment in my opinion. I thought the first was weighed heavily down on the winery setting and this one while still giving it that feel covered more in the character and story growth putting it right up there with my over favorites from the authors. If looking for a cozy with a lot of laughs and good mystery you can't go wrong with their books.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

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

Shelly says

I like the setting of this cozy mystery. The Finger Lakes region of upstate NY is charming. The Wine Trail Mysteries are set in Seneca Lake at the Two Witches Winery. In Chardonnayed to Rest, it is time for the annual Federweisser festival, a celebration of the season's first fermentation of white Chardonnay grapes. But not everyone is in a festive mood and sourly Roy Wilkes isn't making any friends while raising land rents and issuing threats. Soon, Roy is found stabbed and our heroine, Two Witches Winery owner Norrie, finds herself investigating the death in order to clear her friend and prime suspect Rosalee's name. It was a bit slow moving for an avid reader like myself who has more than a dozen books she wants to start reading on any given week. Other's may appreciate the pace. All in all, it is a fun read. 3.5 stars.

Betty says

The second installment of wine series finds that Two Witches Winery has been selected to host the annual Federweisser to celebrate the first fermentation of the white Chardonnay grapes. Norrie is still in charge of the family's Vineyard. She received a call from a frantic neighbor that a body was found on her land. Rosalee Marbleton's was having problems with the corpse and she wanted Norrie's help. The story takes an odd turned as Norrie decides the sheriff will not investigate correctly and feels she needs to find the killer. Norrie makes a lot of mistakes that put her in danger that I found it hard to believe. The unique ending will surprise you.

I recommend this book.

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

Cozy Cat Reviews says

The charming setting of a winery in upstate New York is the outstanding back ground for this excellent cozy mystery series.. I have read the entire series and highly recommend all books in the series. Each book can be read as a stand alone. This is written by a husband and wife team who write a well crafted mystery with great characters and a dose of humor.

Chardonnayed to Rest features wineries in picturesque upstate New York. The winery owners work together as friends and neighbors to put on celebrations. Everyone is busy working on a new event to be held at the Two Witches Winery. Norrie is managing the winery for her sister who is out of the country. When a murder occurs at the winery across from Two Witches Norrie is on the case and wants to clear her neighbors from any suspicion. She is a experienced sleuth and with help from her friends soon is deep into clues. Her life is in danger and attempts are made on her life . When someone is arrested she is sure that person is the wrong suspect and that she is still in danger. She is correct and soon solves the multi-layered mystery.

This is a well crafted mystery with charming supporting characters and a beautiful winery as the back ground of the story. It is pleasing to read and has a fast pace to the mystery and plot. I look forward to the next book in the series. it has a aspect of a new romantic interest for Norrie which did not overpower the story but left the reader hoping for more in the next book. This series is always a fun and interesting mystery read. Thank you for the ARC which did not influence my review. Very well done to the author's

I

RO G'ma says

Chardonnayed to Rest is the second 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 flows smoothly with a steadily paced plot, twists and turns, and a well-developed cast of quirky characters. This is a quick and easy read with an interesting mystery and humor.

Norrie Ellington, a successful screenwriter and a silent partner in Two Witches Winery, her family's winery in Seneca Lake, New York. 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 reluctantly agreed since she can write anywhere and the winery's staff is experienced. During a meeting of Women of the Wineries, the women vote to include Theo Buchman and his life partner, Don, who own the Grey Egret Winery in their organization, and change their name to Winery Owners of the West, so they can continue to use the acronym, WOW. The local wineries are preparing for Labor Day Weekend, which is always a busy holiday for them, and in two weeks, Two Witches Winery will be hosting the Federweisser Festival. While attending the meeting, Norrie learns that Roy Wilkes, the new owner of the land where Terrace Wineries' water pipeline runs, has raised the rent so high that Rosalee Marbelton fears she may have to close her vineyard. When one of Rosalee's four Corgis, finds a body early one morning near the pumping station for her pipeline, instead of calling 911, Rosalee calls Norrie. Deputy Sheriff Gary Hickman is convinced Kelsey Payne, Rosalee's handyman, is guilty and doesn't seem to be looking any further. Since Norrie helped solve a murder before, Rosalee wants her to start investigating.

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