



A Flair for Chardonnay

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When flamboyant senior sleuth Sadie Kramer learns the owner of Cioccolato, her favorite chocolate shop, is in trouble, she heads for the California wine country with a tote-bagged Yorkie and a slew of questions. The fourth generation Tremiato Winery promises answers, but not before a dead body turns up at the vintners' scheduled Harvest Festival.

All four Tremiato siblings have possible motives, as well as a few peripheral acquaintances, but only one could be the guilty party. As Sadie juggles truffles, tips and turmoil, she'll need to sort the grapes from the wrath in order to find the identity of the killer.

A Flair for Chardonnay Details

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Author : Deborah Garner

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Geoffrey Heath says

A Flair for A Good Mystery

Sadie Kramer is a complete hoot! She has a nose for solving a mystery. The book is well-written, without the usual little typographical errors I find in many of these type of books, and the ending came as somewhat of a surprise, although the hints pointing at the guilty party were certainly there once I thought about it in retrospect. Definitely a good read.

Evelyn Grabas says

Enjoyed the book very much. Was going to congratulate Ms. Garner for publishing a book without errors (which I RARELY find), but then I came to the part where Detective Hudson handcuffs Nick Perry. It then reads:

Stefano shook free of Detective Hudson and backed off, turning to Sadie. "How did you know?"

Thereby, committing an unforgiveable faux pas - exchanging character's names. And giving a big red mark to Elizabeth Christy, who edited the book.

Fortunately, I found the book enjoyable and surprisingly enough only found that one error, so I look forward to reading the next book in this series (which I sincerely hope will contain NO errors at all).

Mary Sue Wysocki says

A Fun, not scary, mystery

While mysteries may not usually be considered fun, I found A Flair for Chardonnay to be a light "cozy" book with no blood and gore. I enjoyed Sadie's sleuthing abilities as well as her love of all things chocolate. I will certainly be reading more of Deborah Garners books.

Beckie says

So dull and uninteresting, couldn't get past chapter ten. No character development beyond how much chocolate Sadie eats and weak plot development. It is never explained how it is that Sadie is a go-to for solving crimes, let alone why she took it upon herself to invade her friend's family business. Cozy mysteries are meant to be fun and entertaining, not filled with realism or human drama, but this one falls way short of the mark.

Holly Kailani says

The author thanks her editor for exceptional editing. I disagree

To begin with, the “victim” seemed totally random, with no reason to connect with him. Then there were the endless and quickly boring details about how many and what kind of chocolates Sadie ate. Then she sneaks her dog into totally inappropriate places, like the wine tasting room. Add in a dysfunctional winery family, a clothing boutique, a bed and breakfast, and the winery family member’s chocolate store, and the tedious minutiae went on and on. I had to start skimming so I could force myself to finish. Ended the book with the same feeling of disconnect as I started. Unlikely to read more by this author.

Kat Taylor says

A little nip

What a scrumptious way to solve any mystery, Sadie enjoys food any food and next to it a mystery. An enjoyable mystery with flair to be read at any time of the day or evening, ending with a few recipes at the end of the book. What more could you ask for in a cozy mystery?

Laura Reading says

Sadie Kramer believes life should be lived with "FLAIR" -- for style, adventure, for interesting and extravagant flavors, especially specialty chocolates.

She has four "C's" to live by and a very special personal fifth "C," Coco, her secret tote bag companion. It is the curiosity "C" that draws Sadie into this present predicament. Responding uninvited to an agitated, overheard, phone conversation she heads off for an upscale community centered on vineyards and family dynamics overwhelmingly complex and confusing. We deliciously get to appreciate an environment many of us will never visit.

The writing sets the tone for tension and uncertainty, making characters cold or compassionate. I enjoyed the description of shop assistant Amber over caffeinated and how the author expresses appreciation for modern technology through Sadie's thoughts:

Now she could just tap questions into a keyboard. Wearing fuzzy slippers and polka dot pajamas, no less!

The only flaw I perceived in the plot was insufficient strength of the planted clue.

I did have to look back and see the relationship to the crime scene.

I enjoyed my time with Sadie, Amber and Coco as well as the time in wine country.

Pauline says

I wanted a light read; a fun book with which to start my summer. This was it. A good mystery which I didn't figure out with interesting characters. I could see this series becoming a hallmark mystery series. Living in the Bay Area, so near the Napa wine country, and in the Livermore Valley wine country, I enjoyed the winery setting.

Jennifer Robb says

I like the friendship between Matteo and Sadie and that she's willing to go see his family to try to determine what has him upset. I have to admit to understanding the love of chocolate and the love of good food moreso than the love of wine and the fashion flair aspects of the book. Sometimes the descriptions of the clothes and accessories got a bit tedious for me.

It's a wonder Sadie finds time to run her shop--and it's a good thing she has an understanding and capable assistant, because Sadie seems gone from her shop more than she's there in this book.

Coco seems to be a cute dog, but I think Sadie overdoes it with carrying her almost everywhere in a tote. I also never figured out if Tina knew Sadie was keeping Coco in the room. I can kind of understand Sadie talking to the dog, but I always feel it is a bit of a stretch when authors start making it seem like animals participate in solving the problems.

I did not guess the killer until it was revealed--and I'm still not quite sure how Sadie put the pin and the pen together with the killer.

Fiona Martin says

What a fun book! I love the heroine of this book Sadie, and her little Yorkie Coco. She's classy and super clever to be able to work out the intricacies of this puzzling case.

This is a light hearted crime story with many descriptions of her clothes and accessories and the different food, wine and chocolates she eats in the course of the puzzle.

In the end though, Sadie gets her killer and that's all that matters!

April Wilson says

This was a fun start to a cute cozy series! It was pretty straightforward and I figured out the murderer, but Sadie and her dog, Coco, are fun to "watch". Sadie has a flair for life and is addicted to chocolate so having her clothing shop located next door to a gourmet chocolate shop is a perfect choice for this energetic senior. The owner of the chocolate shop, Matteo, finds his family and himself in a bit of hot water when someone is found murdered at the family winery. Sadie takes it upon herself to sort out the truth. One thing I especially like is that Sadie doesn't think she's better than the police and lets them know what she knows when she figures things out. It would be nice if more cozies did this.

marcia mccoys says

Just okay

I like the main character, Sadie, although she needed to be "fleshed out" more. I know she's flamboyant in

her style and color choices, but I learned nothing about her as a person, specifically. All the businesses in the wine country became a little confusing since each had same or very similar words in their names. It wasn't an exciting story that I couldn't put down, but worth reading.

Kathleen Kelly says

A Mystery With Flair! A Flair for Chardonnay is the first book in a series that features Sadie Kramer and her sidekick, Coco, a little dog, a Yorkie, who she carries in a little tote bag and is a faithful companion and a very well-behaved one at that. Sadie owns a boutique in San Francisco, right next door to Mateo who is a chocolatier. Sadie does love her chocolates and is not ashamed to admit it. She also has a flair for putting together outfits for her customers of her shop Flair, named for her love of style and adventure.

Mateo and his family own Tremiato Winery in St. Vincent's Hollow. Even though Mateo is part owner of the winery, his passion is chocolates so he has no part in the daily running of the winery which is a bone of contention to his siblings. They feel he should be assisting in the business. Sadie is concerned about her neighbor after hearing him on the phone arguing with someone so she decides to visit the winery. Her mission is twofold, to find out what may be bothering Mateo and a mini vacation, so she leaves the running of her shop to her trusted employee and off she goes.

At the winery she meets the family, they do not know at this point that she is a friend of Mateo's. While she is there though there is a murder on the premises and that is where the mystery begins. The family had been negotiating to sell the winery but Mateo doesn't want to sell so when a dead body turns up, everyone in the family is suspect.

With Sadie's skill for detective work, she is determined to find out what happened and why? This is when the story gets interesting, even though Sadie is not a detective, just a concerned and nosy friend, she is able to put the clues together and figure out who the killer is.

This is a fun cozy mystery, filled with character and "flair". Written very well with interesting characters and a back story of a seemingly dysfunctional family. Who was the murdered person and why was he killed at the winery and what was his connection to the Tremiato family? Well for these answers you need to read the book! I look forward to reading the next installment in the Sadie Kramer Flair Mystery series.

charlene wilbanks says

A Flair for Chardonnay

What a book! Delightful. Best book I have read lately. I love a good cozy mystery and this one did not disappoint me. Ah, such Flair. I want to wrap a scarf around my neck and flounce! Give me more Chocolate!

Cheryl says

This is the first in the series and the first time reading this author. The main character is Sadie who owns a little boutique next door to Matteo . Now Matteo owns a fancy handmade chocolate shop but his family owns a winery. When Sadie hears there is trouble up at the winery she heads up there to see if she can help and ends up trying to solve a murder. She is quite the character but she does figure it out and boy I didn't see that ending. Look forward to more of her adventures.
