



TAMING THE TRUFFLE

Whether the world's best truffles come from Piedmont or Périgord inspires impassioned debate, but the effects of dwindling supply and insatiable demand for the elusive mushroom are unquestionable: prices through the roof, intrigue and deception, and ever more intensive efforts to cultivate. As international mycologist Ian Hall and his colleagues have written, "Attempts at taming the truffle, of ordering its growth and harvest, now span the globe, and there has been some success in unlocking the secrets of what French researchers have aptly referred to as la grande mystique."

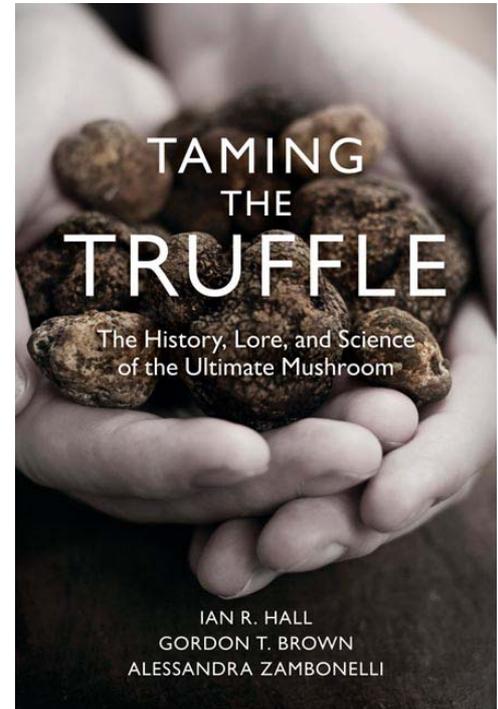
The secrets of when, how, and where to collect truffles have been passed from generation to generation since ancient times, but artificial cultivation remains the holy grail. Here in the most comprehensive practical treatment of the gastronomic treasure to date, the art and science of the high-stakes pursuit come together. This extensively illustrated volume brings the latest research and decades of experience to enthusiasts and professionals alike, with coverage of the leading truffle areas including the traditional countries: France, Italy, Spain and Asia, and the newcomers: Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

The authors, with their enthusiasm and expertise leavened with wry humour, explore the history and newest techniques, describe in detail the commercial species and their host plants, natural habitats, cultivation, and maintenance, pests and diseases, and harvesting with pigs, dogs, truffle flies, and even the electronic nose.

Copies of Taming the Truffle are now available from Truffles & Mushrooms, price NZ\$65 or A\$59 (incl. GST, post and packaging).

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For more information see: www.trufflesandmushrooms.co.nz/page9.html



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