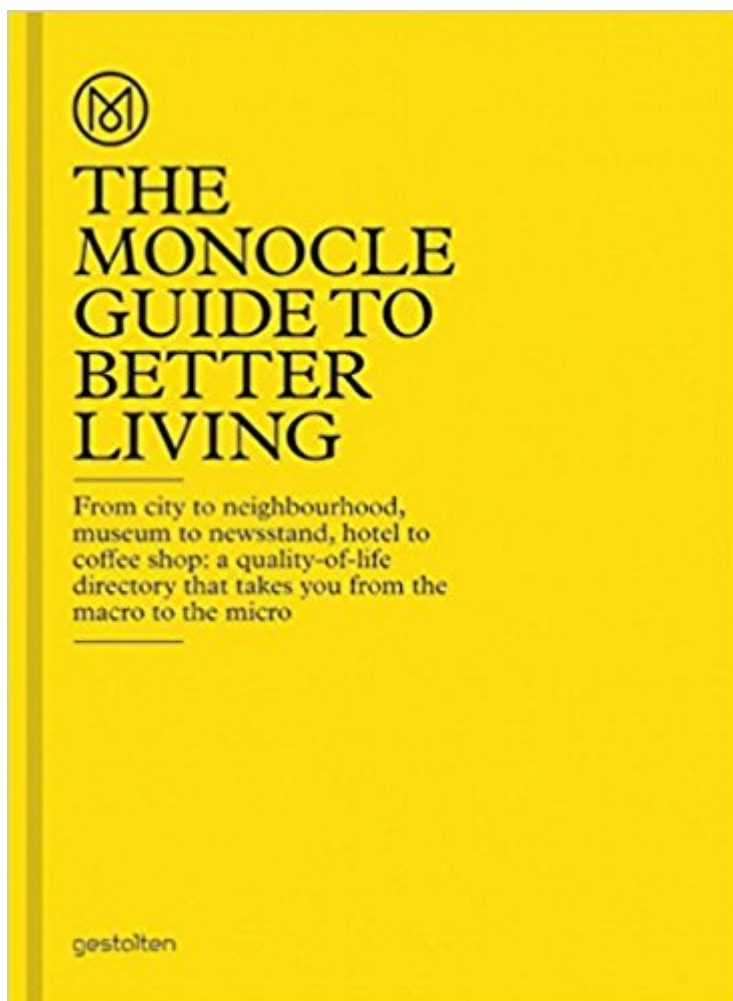


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# The Monocle Guide To Better Living



## Synopsis

Full of writing, reports, and recommendations, The Monocle Guide to Better living is original, informative, entertaining, and comprehensive. This is not a book about glitz but rather an upbeat survey of products and ideas built to treasure and last. Monocle is one of the most successful magazines to be developed in the past decade. Armed with an unmistakable sense of aesthetics and journalistic tenacity, its team—led by editor-in-chief Tyler Brûlé—has created an intelligent publication that continually inspires a global readership who are interested in everything from diplomacy to design. For its first-ever book, the editorial team looks at one of their core themes: how to live well. The result is The Monocle Guide to Better living, an original, informative, and entertaining collection of writing, reports, and recommendations. This is not a book about glitz but rather an upbeat survey of products and ideas meant to be treasured and last. Structured into chapters on the city, culture, travel, food, and work, the book also provides answers to some key questions. Which cities offer the best quality of life? How do you build a good school? How do you run a city? Who makes the best coffee? And how do you start your own inspirational business? The Monocle Guide to Better living works as a guide but also includes 10 essays that explore what makes a great city, why craft is desirable, how to run your own hotel, and why culture is good for you. This is not a book about fashion or the next big thing. It's a book about finding enduring values—from a career you want to keep to furniture that will last a lifetime. It's a book designed to stay relevant, loved, and used. An indispensable guidebook to contemporary life, The Monocle Guide to Better living embodies everything that makes the magazine such a success: easy style and journalistic substance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Full of writing, reports, and recommendations, The Monocle Guide to Better living is original, informative, entertaining, and comprehensive. This is not a book about glitz but rather an upbeat survey of products and ideas built to treasure and last.

Its a good entertaining read but clearly repackaging magazine articles in a book format. While it comes across as very international in scope, it is still rather provincial, focusing more on Japan than the rest of Asia and oddly has a strong fondness of Mallorca.

a recap of the magazines nothing new that I am aware of although i haven't read ever magazine yet I do recognise a few articles but well put together and an enjoyable read, if your new to monocle pick up the books and save some space then trying to re catch up on all the magazines.

Monocle magazine and its founding editor Tyler Brûlé receive their fair, or more than their fair, share of criticism and parody. But Monocle has also been described as feeling like a club -- a self-selected fraternity of readers who share the editors' essential view across a range of topics, including urbanism, craftsmanship, customer service, printed media, Scandinavian electro-pop, and the value of a good flat white. For members of the club, "The Monocle Guide to Better Living" will be familiar but still very-nearly-essential, reading. I say "familiar" because parts of this book are indeed adapted from the magazine. The initial section, "Ten Cities to Call Home," for instance, obviously draws from the annual Most Livable Cities list, while the last major section, "Going Places: Travel Top 50," also relies heavily on another annual list. Other articles and photos are recognizable too. With reference to a previous reviewer, though, this book is definitely not a "greatest hits" collection with nothing new for the long-time reader. I applied the scientific method, opening the book at random and searching for the article and subject revealed on the Monocle website (disclosure: I'm a subscriber, and so have access to the magazine's full online archive). Of the twenty articles thus chosen, fifteen were clearly new material or, at any rate, new reporting on subjects the magazine had covered before. Four were obviously recycled (not that there's anything wrong with that), and one I classified as "kinda new," since it was a print adaptation of a Monocle Films video. Whether that ratio is worth the money is for the individual customer to decide. As a

dues-paying member of the club, one of the parts of the "Monocle Guide" I found most interesting was the photo essay at the end about the Monocle shops, cafÃ©, and inside the St. Peter's -- or maybe Skull and Bones Hall -- of Monocledom, Midori House itself. Many Monocle staffers are also pictured, almost uniformly young and stylish. I also noticed that very few of them are wearing glasses or otherwise suggesting presbyopia may be a problem, which brings me to my major criticism of the "Monocle Guide." Despite the magazine's philosophical devotion to print, the Monocle and/or gestalten designers' treatment of it isn't very friendly. Captions and other material are in tiny, tiny type, while in certain essays, the closing list of key points or suggestions are printed in minuscule red type on a pink page! For a book hefty enough that it should come with its own dictionary stand (no doubt produced by Monocle in collaboration with Akiyama Mokkou [pp 172-173] or Young & Norgate [pp 138-139] and available for purchase in a Monocle Shop nowhere near you), holding the page to the light trying to find an angle where it's legible becomes a strain. Apart from that, though, anyone who understands and appreciates Monocle will find a cozy welcome here, too.

Great book! Packed from cover to cover with valuable information. Great job Monocle staff!

Nice book that is rather proudly displayed on my coffee table most of the year!

Another great book from this publisher

I bought this hoping for a pretty book with some good advice. I got a pretty book. 90% of this book is pictures. Some are lovely, some are boring. But this is really a book about design. For example, the the section on "Wardrobe Essentials" is nine, full-page pictures of clothing that is interesting from a design perspective, yet anything but essential. Contrary to the title, there's not much advice on how to live better.

Good!

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