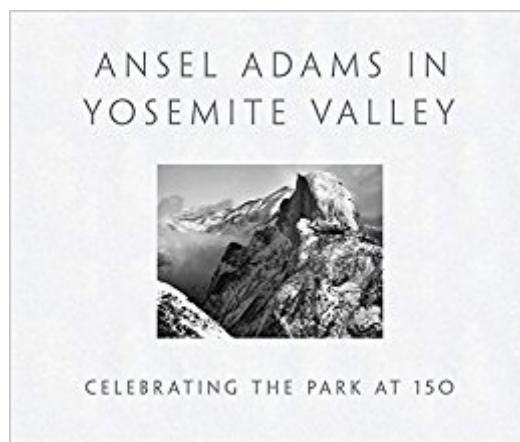


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# Ansel Adams In Yosemite Valley: Celebrating The Park At 150



## **Synopsis**

A deluxe, oversized book timed for the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Yosemite Grant, an event that laid the groundwork for the National Parks system. Ansel Adams first visited Yosemite in 1916, at the age of fourteen, and returned every year throughout his life. It was in Yosemite that he fell in love with Western wilderness and became a photographer; he made more photographs at Yosemite than at any other place. Roughly 150 breathtaking images are exquisitely reproduced in this large-format clothbound book. There are notable portraits of El Captain (the famous rock face whose Dawn Wall was recently free-climbed for the first time), Half Dome, Cathedral Rocks, Royal Arches, and other distinctive rock formations that frame the valley; grand views in all seasons and all states of weather; intimate details of nature from the Valley floor; the waterfalls--Bridalveil, Yosemite, Vernal, Nevada; studies of trees, from the giants of the Mariposa Grove to the exquisite white blossoms of the dogwood. There are gathering and clearing storms, snow and ice, bright sunshine, and the subtle shades of dawn and dusk. The photographs have been selected and sequenced by Peter Galassi, former Chief Curator of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art, New York. His abundantly illustrated introduction sets Adams's pictures within the rich history of imagery of Yosemite.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Peter Galassi was a curator in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, for thirty years, including twenty as Chief Curator, from 1991 to 2011. He organized or

co-organized more than forty exhibitions and countless collection displays at MoMA, many of which were accompanied by major publications. He was twice a fellow in the Department of European Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and has won the Eric Mitchell Prize and the International Center of Photography award for excellence in writing. In 2012 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for a study of photography's vernacular and modernist traditions. Ansel Adams (1902 - 1984) was the most honored American photographer of the twentieth century. Through the exhibition and publication of his work, his writings, and his leadership in the Sierra Club, Adams was also a prescient and highly effective voice in the fight to preserve America's remaining wilderness.

I gave this book to my husband for Christmas and he loves it. His BA is in photography.

This oversized book celebrates Yosemite at 150 with photographs by Ansel Adams. It would make a wonderful book - who tells a better visual story about this remarkable national park than Adams? The selection is generous, around 145 of them. Besides Adams' classic images, there are quite a few plates that are not seen in other Adams' books. The introduction article by Peter Galassi is useful, although Galassi admits that he has never visited the valley. His paragraphs depict the park history, referring to painters and photographers and their work in various art forms. Galassi quotes Adams for his deep appreciation in Yosemite that goes into his photographs. Influence from John Muir is also mentioned. More interestingly, Galassi writes about his predecessor, the late John Szarkowski, and Szarkowski's thoughts when creating the exhibit Ansel Adams at 100. What limits the book to three star is the mediocre printing quality. First, quite a few plates in large sizes lack sharpness and local tone separation. Adams' photographs are famous for overall sharpness, rich texture and fine local tone separation. Yet these plates render them otherwise. Some are so bad that you would think the original photographs were made using a 35mm camera. Secondly, almost all the plates seem to have their high values printed a bit lighter than they should be. I don't know if this happens because contrast is exaggerated or something else. But as a result, highlights are often blown out and high values sometimes lose traceable details. I have seen Adam's photographs many times and learned his zone system when it comes to print values. Large areas of sunlit mountains are seldom rendered close to paper white. But a few plates render them just that. Some plates that have sunlit water, snows or clouds suffer the same issue. I have many Adams' books. So far the paperback edition of Ansel Adams at 100, printed in the U.S. (2001) or in Germany (2003), renders his work most faithfully, barring the slightly off tone. Others of high printing quality include

Yosemite and the High Sierra (1994), California (1997) and Trees (2004). Ansel Adams in Yosemite Valley could have been printed better. The paper stock seems quality. Design looks professional. The book probably fall a bit short to the AA standard, which is high. Probably not worth the list price. But around \$50? Maybe, for celebration of a beloved park and it's equally beloved photographer.

Beautiful compilation of photographs, purchased for an excellent price!

Beautiful book, classic photos

Got it as a present and it wow'ed her!

This is a book of goregeous Ansel Adams pictures. The quality is great and it is a size that do justice to the images.

beautiful book.

a really lovely book. purchased for my daughter's family as Christmas gift. They like hiking, national parks and photography.

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