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Garden of virtues



Beth Schlanker / The Press Democrat

Jorge Galvan picks beets in the garden at DeLoach Vineyards on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010, in Santa Rosa.

By MEG MCCONAHEY THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

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For millennia, farmers all over the planet have honored Mother Earth. But at DeLoach Vineyards, the symbol of bounty is not your usual fulsome, overfed goddess of fertility but a lissome Gaia, her arms, like a dancer, reaching to the heavens.

DELOACH WINERY GARDEN TOURS

When: Sept. 18 through Oct. 31. Hours: 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays by appointment. Alternate times available for groups of four or more. How Long: 1 hour. Includes: Visitors are free to sip wine as they stroll through the certified biodynamic estate

Clearly, this is a woman who appears to be fed on healthy veggies. At DeLoach, with its prized half-acre produce garden wedged among the vines, that's not hard to do.

The 61 raised beds are in year-round service, delivering to the winery table everything from Black-

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and garden. By the fountain in the garden's gazebo they can sample produce from the garden and nibbles prepared by the DeLoach kitchen staff, and paired with five premium wines.

Cost: \$25; \$20 for wine club members.

To Reserve: Contact Ellen Springwater, Tasting Room Manager at [ellen.springwater@deloachvineyards.com](mailto:ellen.springwater@deloachvineyards.com) or call 526-9111 ext. 118.

Where: 1791 Olivet Road, Santa Rosa.

Information: [Deloachvineyards.com](http://Deloachvineyards.com).

eyed peas and white Lumina pumpkins to Striped Armenian cucumbers and Early Hakucho soybeans.

"You probably haven't met Earth and Sky," DeLoach General Manager Lisa Heisinger is quick to tell a visitor, gesturing in proper introduction toward the 18-foot tall bronze statue of Gaia gracefully presiding over the newly re-landscaped picnic area.

The piece was commissioned by DeLoach proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset, who has been working ever since his family purchased the winery in 2003 to rejuvenate the land through organic and biodynamic practices — including pulling out all the estate vines, letting the land rest with only cover-crop rotations

**More Photos:**

- [DeLoach Vineyards Garden](#)

for several seasons and then replanting. This is the first season that grapes are being harvested from the new vineyards.

Sculptor Peter Schifrin, director of the School of Fine Art Sculpture at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, created the sculptural monument as a "visual mnemonic affirming life" and a simple reminder to "Carpe Diem," or seize the day.

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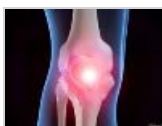
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