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California Preservation Award for Buena Vista Winery

Tuesday, September 10th, 2013 | Posted by [dhart](#) | no responses

Innovative modern technology proved the perfect solution for the seismic retrofitting of an historic building at Buena Vista Winery, with the result earning the winery a California Preservation Award.

The California Preservation Foundation will present the winery with the statewide award during the 30th annual California Preservation Awards at the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco on Friday, Sept. 27.

The foundation recognizes exemplary work in historic preservation, rehabilitation, sustainability, studies, reports and categories in the preservation field.

Buena Vista is honored for the seismic retrofitting of its historic champagne cellar, which hadn't been open to the public for more than 20 years.

The award recognizes the seismic strengthening completed in 2012 at Buena Vista. RDC Construction and ARGCS both worked on the months-long project.

The cellars opened last summer to a gala celebration at the winery, founded in 1857 and considered California's oldest commercial winery.

The project included the removal of old-growth ivy that covered much of the cellar building, exposing the stone walls for meticulous preservation and rehabilitation. The project included re-pointing all the joints, replacing cracked and deteriorated stones, repairing wall cracks and removing all of the existing mortar.

Structural strengthening was achieved through center core drilling, an innovative retrofitting process that strengthens the exterior masonry walls with no visible evidence. It uses reinforced steel rods placed from the top to the bottom of the walls through exacting drilling calibrations.

The project also included replacing a roadway with cobblestone and the pathway with decomposed granite; reconstruction of an adjacent fountain; and landscaping.

The completed project was unveiled in August of 2012 in time for the 200th birthday of Count Agoston Haraszthy, the Hungarian-born winery founder known as the father of California viticulture.

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