



FOOD & WINE

Postcard from Harvest: Sonoma Wine Country Weekend

Sip as the seasons change.

BY HAYLEY HAMILTON COGILL | PUBLISHED IN FOOD & DRINK | SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Scottish novelist and poet, Robert Louis Stevenson noted the phrase “wine is bottled poetry” in his tale, *Silverado Squatters*. And though he took the reader to Napa Valley in post-Gold Rush days, the thought can easily be carried over the mountains from Napa to Sonoma where some of the finest poets in the world came together under the grand tent at Chateau St. Jean winery in Sonoma to sip and toast.

Over the course of a weekend celebration winemakers and vintners from one end of Sonoma to other came together a few weeks ago for the **Sonoma Wine Country Weekend**, a partnership between **Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers** and **Sonoma County Vintners**, led by the delightful and always smiling Jean Arnold Sessions. I had a chance to attend this year as a guest of the event.



Though multiple charitable organizations throughout the region benefit from the event, there is a particular focus on literacy of children within Sonoma.

Over half of the kids in school in Sonoma County are not able to read at their grade level, particularly some of the youngest. From the studies conducted, the region has realized that if you can't read at your grade level by 3rd grade you will have a very difficult time ever catching up.



Sunday's
**Sonoma Harvest
Auction Event at
Chateau St.
Jean**

transformed the region into Marrakesh, with a plethora of belly dancers, a live camel, music and merriment, all with the goal



Jean Charles Boisset of Boisset Family Wines, including Buena Vista Winery

to do good. We had the pleasure of joining our charming friend, Jean Charles Boisset, of **Boisset Collection** and Co-Chair of last year's event, at his **Buena Vista Winery** table near the front. And from the start the **JCB No. 69 Sparkling Wine** was flowing, along with a sparkler from Buena Vista. Agoston Haraszthy, founder of Buena Vista in 1857 in Sonoma, and recognized as being the Father of California viticulture, and six children. His third son, Arpad, spent over two years in France learning sparkling wine production, later becoming the first to introduce Méthode Traditionelle sparkling wine into California winemaking with his Eclipse Sparkling Wine.

Today's **Buena Vista La Victoire Brut Champagne** pays tribute to his legacy. Crafted in Champagne the lively sparkler is filled with lemon-lime citrus notes, toasted cream and brioche notes, available via their website.

Jean Charles was also debuting a new wine to the Boisset portfolio, "**The Revenge**," adorned with a golden alligator with red eyes. This small production premium Cabernet Sauvignon wine should be available via their websites by the holidays.

As the auction got into full swing, and bids were rising higher and higher, the key lot for the day came up for bid, the "**Fund the Future**" lot to help raise money directly to help the kids of Sonoma read. Most of us have been to some sort of auction or another, and the fun part of an auction, live or silent, is bidding with the chance to win a prize and enjoy some sort of experience. This auction lot wasn't that, instead it was simply asking the people of Sonoma, winemakers, vintners and guests, to raise their paddle to help their community.



The Revenge from Boisset Family Wines.