

FEBRUARY 2016
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Where

game DAY

Everything you
need to know about
Super Bowl 50

50

4 ROMANTIC
CITY ITINERARIES

HEROES
AND HEARTS

95'
SUPER BOWL
XXIX

MY WINE COUNTRY

What to sip and savor
in wine country



Jean-Charles Boisset

[President of Boisset Family Estates]

A dominant figure in the wine world, the innovative entrepreneur Jean-Charles Boisset grew up in a winemaking family in Burgundy. Today he leads the family wine empire, with wineries in his native France and here in California, including DeLoach Vineyards in Sonoma's Russian River Valley, Raymond Vineyards in Napa Valley (named Winery of the Year by Wine Enthusiast magazine in 2012) and Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma, as well as four JCB Tasting Lounges across wine country and San Francisco.

What are your favorite wine country restaurants?

I adore the food and atmosphere at Morimoto in Napa and their excellent wine and cocktail program from Eduardo Dingler. I spend as much time in Sonoma as anywhere else in the world. I love the Dry Creek General Store in Healdsburg and love to stop in Sonoma's Best for lunch. I also love the Girl & Fig, Oso, LaSalette, Della Santina's & Burgers and Vine—all in the heart of Sonoma Square.

How does our wine country differ from Burgundy?

Growing up in France, I always had a fascination with the United States. When I

had the chance to come to California, I fell in love with the American sense of optimism, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial spirit. I also love the sense of wonder, curiosity and playfulness in the education philosophy of America. In France, the education system is much more formal, more rigid. I've been inspired to create experiences at our wineries where guests can learn about wine in a fun, creative, imaginative atmosphere.

How is it working in the California wine industry?

We are at a unique moment of the birth of fine wine culture in America! There is a feeling that, led by the fabu-

lous wine culture of the West Coast, a greater appreciation for food, wine, farming and the source is blossoming. It's exciting to see the passion of the vintners, growers, sommeliers and consumers who are bringing it to realization. California vintners have never made such great wine as now, and people are drinking more wine than ever before.

Where would you send visiting history buffs?

I love to visit the historical landmarks of Sonoma Square—the Bear Flag sculpture, the barracks and the museum—every element reminds me of the traditional European and French squares that I grew up with as well as my first visit to Sonoma. There is an overwhelming sense of the birthplace of California here. I have to mention Buena Vista Winery, California's first premium winery. It was the first winery I ever visited in America when I was 11 years old, in 1981. I like to call it the "White House of Wine."

Do you have a favorite vista point in the region?

The vista from atop Wappo Hill. The highest point on the valley floor, it is a spiritual place in Napa first used by the Wappo Indians to take note of all the activity of the valley—from the San Pablo Bay to Mt. St. Helena.

Where can visitors find glamour in wine country?

I'd consider the Red Room at Raymond Vineyards the most sexy room in all of Napa Valley. It was created to be a tasting experience that integrates all the senses of red wines; from the rich red velvet fabric, to leopard carpets, to Baccarat crystal chandeliers.

MY PERFECT DAY

Morning

I would awake with a kickboxing session with my friend Matt Weber at Sidekicks in Napa to get the blood flowing and inspire a day of action. Then I'd go to Kelly's Filling Station in Yountville for the best lattes in wine country in the most unique gas station in all of California.

Afternoon

One of the most charming ways to see the wine country is by train. I adore the Napa Valley Wine Train for bringing that sense of Old World charm to traveling through the vineyards. The views are extraordinary!



Evening

The best way to begin any evening is with bubbles at the newly opened JCB Tasting Salon in Yountville. Decadent and dazzling, it's the most sumptuous tasting room yet in the Napa Valley.

Night

I'd spend the evening at the Napa Valley Performing Arts Center at the Lincoln Theater in Yountville. It brings fantastic art, performance and culture into the heart of wine country, uniting the vital energy and artistry of performance and winemaking.

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