

THINGS TO DO

On the Trail For the Perfect Picnic Spot in Sonoma County

by MEG MCCONAHEY

For the hiker who wants to work, but not wait too long for that edible reward tucked into the rucksack, make a trek to Sonoma's Bartholomew Park.



The virtue of what locals call “Bart Park” is that it is somewhat of a secret, even 25 years after it was created by the late Frank and Antonia Bartholomew to preserve one of the most important sites in the history of the California wine industry. It was here that flamboyant Hungarian entrepreneur Agoston Haraszthy purchased a small vineyard he called Buena Vista, in 1857.



Antonia Bartholomew at the gates to Buena Vista Winery. (Photo courtesy of Bartholomew Park)

They sold Buena Vista winery in 1966, but it remains as a great complement to the 400 acres that now comprise Bartholomew Park. Along the trail, you’ll pass the old stone Press House, built by Haraszthy and visible through the fence. Tastefully restored by Boisset Family Estates, which acquired Buena Vista in 2011, you might want to stop there before you hit the park to pick up a bottle of wine for your picnic.



The Press House tasting room at Buena Vista Winery. (Photo courtesy of Buena Vista Winery)