

Winemaker for a Day

Get a taste of the wine-making life at these Napa and Sonoma wineries.

BY SARA HARE



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Buena Vista Winery, Sonoma

If you've ever imagined being a winemaker in the late 1800s, consider a trip to Sonoma's historic Buena Vista Winery. Slipping on a long black wool coat and top hat circa 1857 (the year Buena Vista was founded), you'll head deep into the cavernous wine caves of this stone winery for the Be the Count blending experience.

Pass through the tasting room and the white-on-white Bubble Pass lounge to arrive in the Cave of Curiosity, where you'll blend wine surrounded by historic tools and treasures. Keep company with such oddities as glass-encased white owls, golden crowns, and a wine guide who sometimes speaks in sonnets.

You'll create an eclectic blend from Grenache, Syrah, Zinfandel, and Merlot, then choose your favorite from one of three blends. Once you've picked, you'll bottle, cork, and add a personalized label before leaving with a bottle of your magical vino.

Do not miss the historic wine museum upstairs, which showcases an impressive collection of wine tools and corkscrews.

\$100 per person, including bottle of wine. 18000 Old Winery Rd., Sonoma, (800) 926-1266, buenavistawinery.com.



Buena Vista Winery // MIKE ANDERSON