



Buena Vista Adds to History & Legacy

TASTE News Service, July 12, 2016 – Buena Vista Winery has unveiled two new wines reflecting the venerable history of Buena Vista Winery – Château Buena Vista Napa Valley Cabernet and La Victoire Champagne.

With the launch, the winery revives its historical connections to the Napa Valley and Champagne, and enhances the original ambitious vision of Founder Count Agoston Haraszthy.



Count Agoston Haraszthy



Made by Buena Vista Winemaker Brian Maloney, Château Buena Vista Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is born of the estate's original foundation in the Napa Valley. It pays homage to the 1860's when Buena Vista's more than 6,000-acre estate stretched from the winery in Sonoma over the top of the Mayacamas Mountains into the Lovall Valley in Napa. At that time it was one of the largest agricultural estates in California. Haraszthy developed and sold ten-acre lots, each planted with 6,800 vines, with the promise that Buena Vista would purchase the grapes for its wines, thus promoting the development of some of the earliest vineyards in Napa. His zeal to promote and develop Napa and Sonoma for wine was contagious, and led to a boom of wine grapes grown in the region. Many prominent vintners in Napa and Sonoma began their own wineries thanks to Haraszthy's inspiration.

In pursuit of his vision that California should be a leading wine region in the world, the Count embarked on his now-famous wine expedition to Europe in 1861 with a mission to improve California viticulture. He believed that his most impactful contribution to California winemaking would be to expand the quality and diversity of vines grown, and encourage winemakers to experiment with the best combinations of vineyard, vine and rootstock to find the best fit for their site. Bringing choice cuttings back to California, he propagated them at Buena Vista. Of the 487 varieties that the Count imported from Europe, Cabernet Sauvignon surely remains the most significant. Château Buena Vista Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon honors this legacy in the Napa Valley.

Additionally, Buena Vista is also launching La Victoire Champagne, which victoriously returns the historical sparkling wine producer to Champagne, as it was one of the first California wineries to study in Champagne and to produce méthode champenoise sparkling wine in California. Today, it is the first California winery to make Champagne in Champagne.

The bottle, adorned with the eagle that symbolizes America, strength and victory, celebrates the triumph of collaboration between California and Champagne. Buena Vista's owner, French-born Jean-Charles Boisset and Buena Vista's winemaking team selected renowned vineyards in Champagne, including 1er Cru Pinot Noir vineyards in Montagne de Reims, and Grand Cru Mesnil-sur-Oger and Chouilly vineyards for the Chardonnay, to produce the ultimate victory of French-American collaboration: Buena Vista La Victoire Champagne. It is a blend of 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay, boasts a low 8.7 g/l dosage and a proprietary bottle that makes it unique in the market.

"Count Agoston Haraszthy envisioned very early on that Champagne would become a prominent and important part of wine culture in California, and determined to produce sparkling wine of the same prestige as Champagne in the cellars of Buena Vista," said Boisset. "His eldest son Arpad studied in Epernay for two years at the House of Venoges, where he learned the intricacies of the *méthode champenoise*. He returned to California and produced his first sparkling wine in 1861 in the caves of Buena Vista and produced the first commercially successful méthode champenoise sparkling in California, under the name Eclipse.

