

NOVEMBER 2015

San Francisco ^{+THE BAY AREA}

where

The Complete Travelers' Magazine

Sightseeing for FOODIES


Q&A: CHEF MICHAEL MINA
EXPLORE TEMESCAL

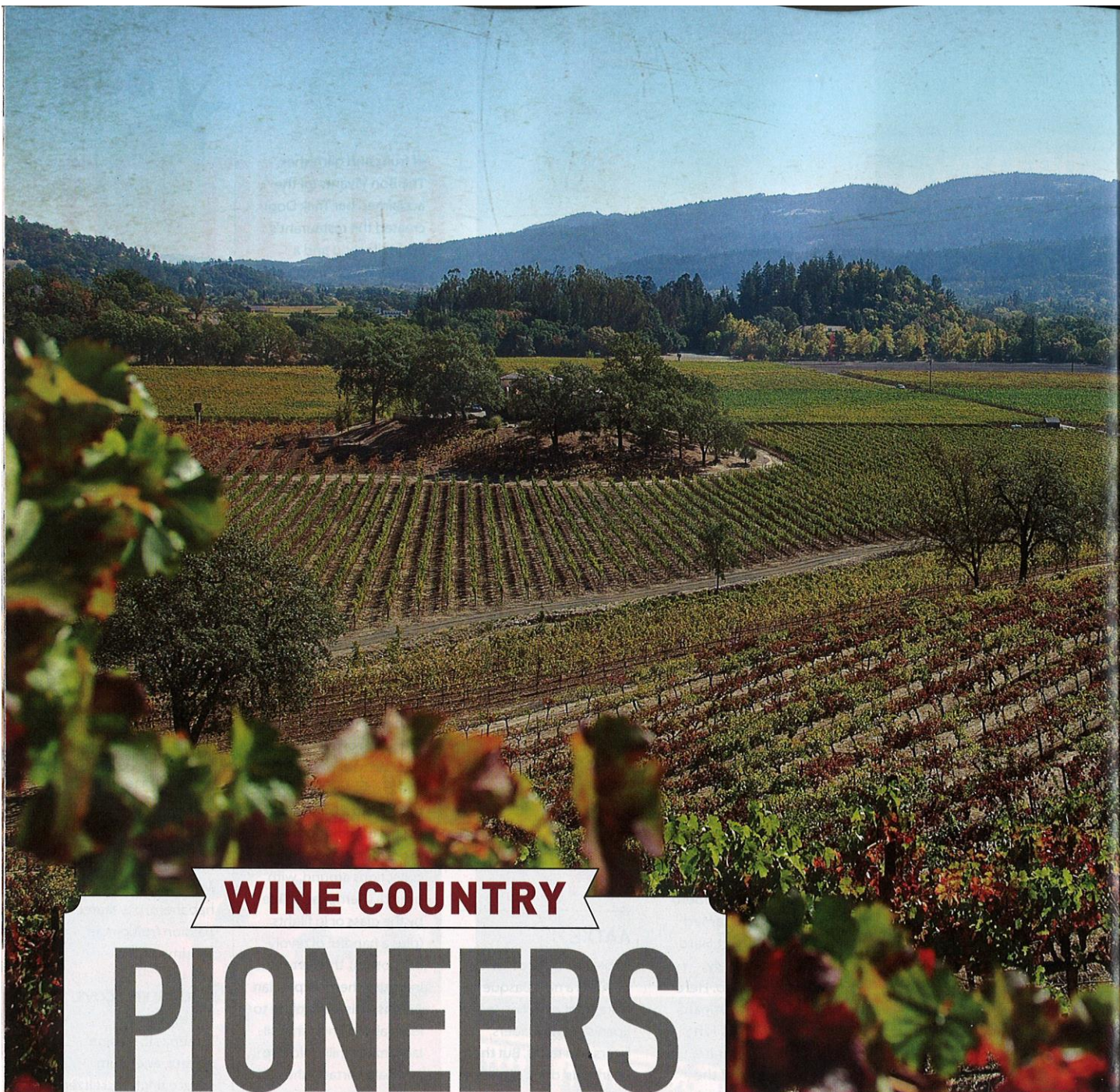


SPECIAL INSERT

ep·i·cure

Find
the best
of the city

 wheretraveler.com



WINE COUNTRY

PIONEERS

THE HISTORY BEHIND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S
OLDEST WINERIES **By Matt Villano**

In the case of California wine, oldies are goodies—even without tipping a glass. While the vast majority of wineries in Napa, Sonoma and Alameda counties only have existed for the last few decades, a select handful of them have been around far longer than that.

Together, these stalwarts represent the pioneers of the region—the ones who quite literally put California wine country on the map. Here's a closer look at the wineries and their stories.



FROM TOP: COURTESY, CHATEAU MONTELENA; CHARLES KRUG



Other Counties

There are historic wine properties outside of the Napa Valley as well. Number one on this list: **Buena Vista Winery** in Sonoma, the oldest winery in all of wine country. Count Agoston Haraszthy de Mokesa from Hungary purchased the property in the mid-1800s and founded the winery in 1857. Once he realized he had struck "purple gold" with this spot, he expanded operations—to 250 acres by 1860. He also inspired countless others; one of them was none other than Charles Krug.

Today, the original winery is on the National Register of Historic Places—a formal designation that recognizes the significance of the place throughout the recent past. A new owner, Jean-Charles Boisset, has transformed the winery into a place that celebrates old and new.

Tastings are done in the (recently refurbished) historic winery and press house. Above the sparkling wine cellars is a first-of-its-kind museum showcasing a collection of historic viticulture tools from France. On certain days, visitors even can take tours of the ground with a costumed guide who calls himself The Count.

"We're once again making wine in the historic cellars," says Tamara Stanfill, a spokesperson for the winery. "We're bringing the whole building and the history back to life."