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PHOTOS BY DYLAN ELLIOTT
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Jean-Charles Boisset, Karen MacNeil, Linsey Gallagher, Linda Reiff, and Bill Dodd



Jean-Charles Boisset's new label, 1881 Napa

JCB COMMEMORATES D-DAY AND OPENS NEW NAPA WINE MUSEUM

Vintner Jean-Charles Boisset famously said, "Parties should be a magical dreamland for guests where all their senses are awakened and enlightened." He achieved that and more at two recent events in his brand new tasting room, 1881 Napa. The first event was in honor of the 75th anniversary of D-Day. June 6, 1944 was one of the most pivotal moments in history, when the American, British, and international free-world troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. They helped liberate France from Nazi Germany's occupation and laid the foundation for an allied victory in World War II. Boisset, along with other winemakers in France and California produced an exceptional wine, 6-6-44 75th Anniversary of D-Day, to commemorate this momentous operation. A red Franco-American blend with grapes from Rutherford, St. Helena, the Russian River Valley, Rhone, Languedoc, Beaujolais and Burgundy, the proceeds of this wine will be donated to veterans.

"Our grandparents served in the French Resistance and felt a close connection to the American soldiers who came to their aid in their fight for freedom," Boisset said. "Seventy-five years later, this magical blend gives us another chapter of celebration, commemoration, peace, and commitment to our common culture and values."

The second event on June 24 was the official opening of 1881 Napa, the country's only wine history museum. Over 250 guests gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony, including many Napa Valley vintners, State Senator Bill Dodd, and best-selling author of *The Wine Bible* Karen MacNeil.

"Today we are cutting the ribbon on something so important," said Boisset. "America is the reflection of the people of the past that crafted this valley. This is your 101 class on the history of California, the pioneers of Napa Valley, the terroir – you can taste history here!"

At the party, guests toured the museum and enjoyed food and wines from 1881 Napa as well as other labels from the Boisset Collection, which acquired the Oakville property earlier this year. When Boisset gave me a private tour, I was amazed to see the extensive collection of historic wine relics from Europe and the United States. I also enjoyed learning the background of the 16 sub-appellations in Napa Valley and about the founders and pioneers of those wine regions. The museum is open for complimentary visitation. Tastings are held on the bottom floor surrounded by alcoves with soil samples from the various regions, along with 1881 Napa wines and descriptions of the areas written by MacNeil.

Guests can also enjoy pours from a blend of Napa Valley grapes, including a sparkling wine, Sauvignon Blanc, rosé, Chardonnay, red blend, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon—all wines crafted exclusively for 1881 Napa by winemaker Thane Knutson to reflect the diversity of Napa Valley.



The chefs



Jean-Charles Boisset tours a group through the museum



A guest poses with the D-Day bottle



Michael Bauer and Gina Callo

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Jean-Charles Boisset



Patrick Egan



Linsey Callagher



Olivia Hsu Decker



Jean-Charles Boisset and Senator Bill Dodd



Jean-Charles Boisset, center, and friends



Linda Reiff



A menu