

Buena Vista's Historic Wine Tool Museum Opens

Editorial Team

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This weekend marked the official Grand Opening of [the historic tool museum](#) at Buena Vista Winery, celebrating the conclusion of the dramatic restoration and revitalization of California's oldest commercial winery, [dating back to 1857](#). Jean-Charles Boisset, proprietor of Boisset Collection, purchased the winery in May 2011.

The museum, located on the third floor of the historic building, includes a collection of rare and authentic 19th and 20th century European viticulture tools: picks, secateurs, grafting knives, and presses, along with pomace cutters, and specialized tools that were used for making barrels. There's a twenty-minute show that presents the story of winemaking through the use of these tools and tells the story of the "Count of Buena Vista," founder Agoston Haraszthy. (The reincarnated count is pictured below, third from the left).



Speakers on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony included: Congressman Mike Thompson, Supervisor Susan Gorin, Sonoma Mayor David Cook; Sheriff John Robertson of the California State Sheriff's Association; [John DeLuca](#), Ph. D., former president and CEO of the Wine Institute of California from 1975 – 2003; Wine historian [Charles Sullivan](#), Val and Kyle Haraszthy, representing the 4th and 5th generation of the Haraszthy family; and others.

Thompson presented a resolution marking the occasion that was read into the congressional record.

DeLuca among other things recalled Jean-Charles Boisset toasting the late Julia Childs as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., commemorated the 80th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition.

The restoration of the Buena Vista facility included a seismic upgrade that very likely saved the historic building from the Napa earthquake of 2014, and credit was given where it was due: Sonoma Mayor David Cook presented a resolution pointing out that while other historic buildings toppled, the Champagne Cellars at Buena Vista Winery suffered no structural damage.

