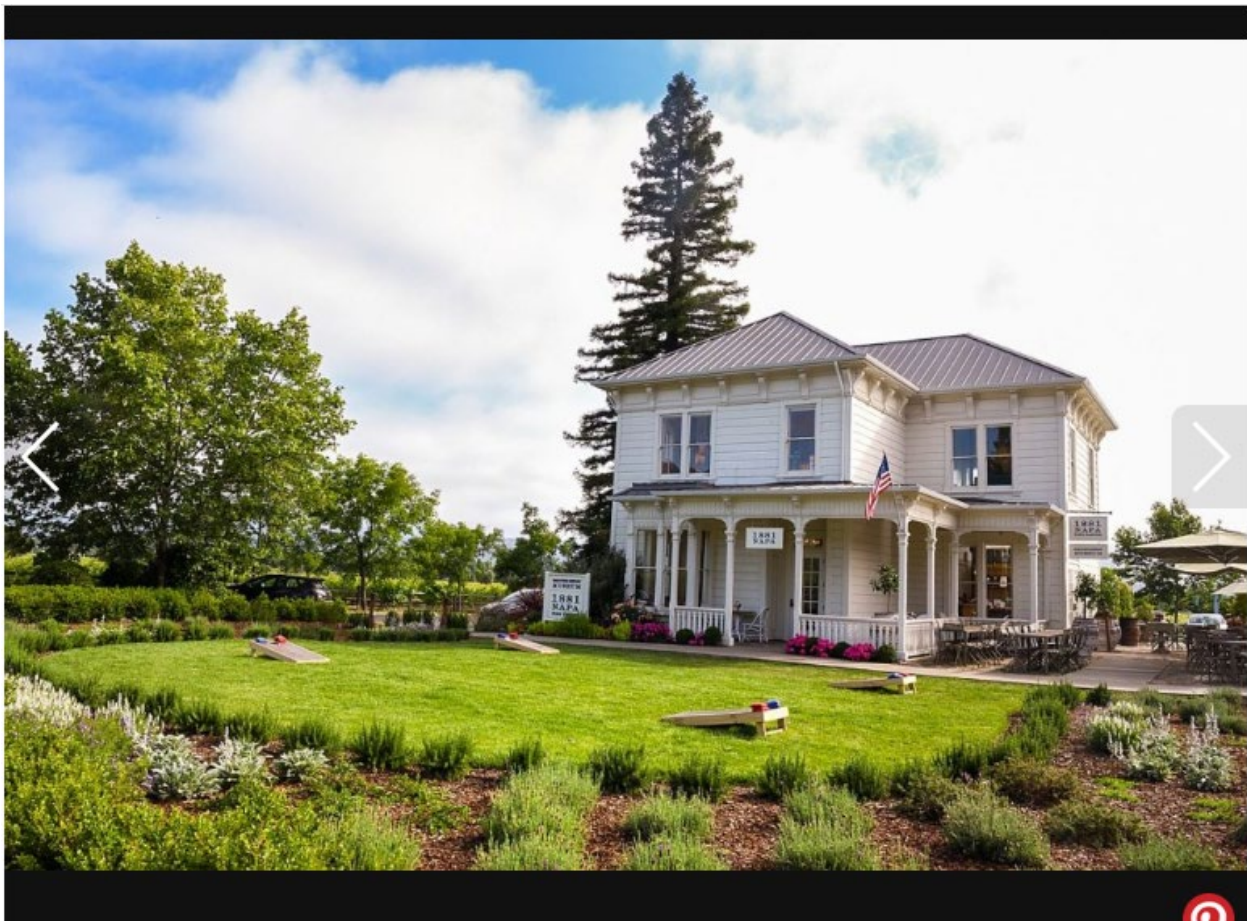


EAT + DRINK, WHAT'S NEW IN SONOMA COUNTY

A Peek Inside Jean-Charles Boisset's Latest Wine Country Venture

by **DANA REBMANN**



SLIDE 1 OF 14

Napa Valley's first wine history museum, 1881 Napa, opened Wednesday, June 12. The museum, owned by Napa Valley vintner and entrepreneur Jean-Charles Boisset, is located next to Oakville Grocery, the oldest continually operating grocery store in California (acquired earlier this year by Boisset Collection). Visitors to the museum can explore Napa Valley history, the region's many viticultural areas as well as a collection of historic wine relics from Europe and the United States and original artifacts from the Early California Wine Trade Archive. Admission is complimentary; tours are self-guided. (Photo by Lowell Downey)



Wine Country roots run deep. There's a fascinating story to be told about how this area became one of the premier wine growing regions in the world. But the hows and whys have a knack for getting lost when you're happily sipping and swirling away — few are those who can remember the details the sommelier or tasting room server shared.

Prolific Napa Valley entrepreneur and vintner Jean-Charles Boisset is on a mission to make wine lovers a little more savvy. His latest business venture, 1881 Napa – the first wine history museum in Napa Valley – invites visitors to explore the history of the region through a self-guided tour.

“Napa Valley has a powerful place in American wine history and 1881 Napa puts the region in perspective on the world stage,” said Boisset in a press release.

As to be expected from [a man known for his flamboyant style](#), Boisset's new museum is equal parts informative, entertaining and extravagant. And there's wine tasting, too. Click through the gallery for a peek inside.

1881 Napa, 7856 St. Helena Highway, Oakville, 1881napa.com. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reservations are recommended and can be made [here](#).