

# American Press

## Taste test event sneak preview of upcoming Rouge et Blanc

Last Modified: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 2:59 PM

By [Mary Newport / American Press](#)



**CRAVE**  
Gourmet Baskets & Gifts

Welcomes  
**THE COUNT  
OF BUENA VISTA  
HISTORICAL WINERY**  
for an  
**EXCLUSIVE TASTING  
& BOTTLE SIGNING**

WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
6PM - 8PM

Crave Gourmet Basket's & Gifts  
2801 Ryan Street, Suite 100, Lake Charles, LA  
(337) 421-0040 [www.crave-foods.com](http://www.crave-foods.com)

*Buena Vista Winery*  
[WWW.BUENAVISTAWINERY.COM](http://WWW.BUENAVISTAWINERY.COM)

Rouge et Blanc, a massive annual food and wine tasting event at McNeese University, is almost upon us. But before the main event on Oct. 17, a series of dinners and tastings mark the weeks leading up to the grand sampling. The first of these is a tasting today at Crave Gourmet Baskets and Gifts, 2801 Ryan Street, Suite 100, Lake Charles.

"We are really excited to host this event for our community," said Melanie McMullen, co-owner of Crave. "We will be kicking off the Rouge et Blanc season, showcasing amazing wines from Buena Vista Winery along with great cheese & foods."

McMullen and co-owner Fran Avery are no strangers to hosting tastings. Crave, which they describe as an "eat boutique," has an olive oil and balsamic vinegar tasting bar featuring more than 60 different kinds of vinegar and oil. On any given day, shoppers can sample a drizzle of each flavor on French bread before making their selection.

Crave also hosts weekly wine and cheese tastings, offering samples of Cakebread, Buena Vista, Coppola, Mer Soleil, JCB and Freakshow wines, alongside artisan cheeses like Cowgirl Creamery's Mt. Tam and Carr Valley's Chocolate Cheese Fudge.

"We taste every Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., just a new wine or a new cheese or a different product that we've gotten in," McMullen said. "There's just a great variety of cheeses. Not your everyday cheese that you would find at a store ... I would call 'em a little bit more boutique. There's hard cheeses, soft cheeses, goat cheeses, sheep cheeses, cow cheeses ... just a great variety of cheese."

Attendees will be able to taste some of the boutique's specialty food and cheese today, but the main focus will be on the wine. For the Rouge et Blanc event, the ladies of Crave are featuring a vintage from the Buena Vista Winery of Sonoma, Calif. Founded in 1857 by Agoston Haraszthy, the self-proclaimed Count of Buena Vista, the winery is a historic landmark and one of California's oldest wineries. The tasting will focus on the Buena Vista 2013 Founder's Red, described as "a balanced and structured wine that exudes seductive red fruit aromas that lead to a pleasing palate of red currant, blackberry jam and just a hint of dark chocolate."

Professional character portrayal actor and historian George Webber will attend the tasting in the persona of Count Agoston Haraszthy, and attendees who purchase a bottle of Founder's Red can get the Count's signature on their bottle.

The event will be 6-8 p.m. The tasting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.cravegiftbaskets.com](http://www.cravegiftbaskets.com) or call 421-0040.

"This is great opportunity for people experiencing Rouge et Blanc to come in and try some of the wines they will try there," Avery said. "It's a first step for people to see what's coming. And it's just a great event for people to get out and try something new."