

## A tale of three Sonoma wineries: historic, vintage and youthful. Like 25

John Compisi

October 24, 2015



The entrance to the 150+ year old Buena Vista Winery reflects the tender loving care provided by proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset, Stately but all Sonoma vintage 1857.

There are so many amazing wineries in [Sonoma County](#), generally, and within a couple miles of the Sonoma Plaza, more specifically. Of particular note are the very historic [Buena Vista Winery](#), the mid-century [Hanzell Vineyards](#) and the most youthful [Stone Edge Farm Estate Vineyards and Winery](#). A recent series of visits to each of these over the past several weeks served to highlight both the history, lineage and direction of these very different but very high quality purveyors of [wine](#), wine country experiences and wine grape growing. Read on!



The oldest of the three, and the first premium winery in California is **Buena Vista Winery** which was established in 1857 by the self-proclaimed "Count of Buena Vista," Hungarian Agoston Haraszthy whose family had owned famed vineyards in Hungary for centuries.

The winery and vineyards are now part of the Boisset Family Estates, a producer and importer of wines from France, California, Italy and Canada. The family owned La Famille des Grands Vins is, reportedly, France's third largest wine group, and Burgundy's largest wine producer. Boisset Family Estates is currently one of the Top 25 wine producers in the United States. Boisset Family Estates is led by Jean-Charles Boisset, a charming master marketer, who is also President of Boisset, La Famille des Grands Vins. To make the situation even more 'lifestyles of the rich and famous', Jean-Charles is married to Gina Gallo, granddaughter of Julio Gallo of **E & J Gallo Winery**, America's largest winery. It is this backdrop of old world and new world wine history that makes the marriage of Buena Vista Winery and Jean-Charles a match made in wine heaven.



John C





It is evident from the twinkle in his eyes, as he personally conducts a tour and tasting, that Boisset is truly in love with this property. When Boisset acquired the winery in 2011 it was in grave need of some loving attention and investment in upgrades, like earthquake retro-fitting of century old buildings, modernizing plant and equipment, a new winemaker and a focus on bringing visitors to this historic site just a couple miles off the Sonoma Plaza. The grounds, tasting rooms, barrel rooms, production facilities, museum and caves have all been restored with the addition of Jean-Charles personal style in some unique and special touches. He has accomplished all of this with a sincere desire to maintain and restore a California wine treasure that he first visited over 30 years ago with his grandparents when he was just 11 years old.

The wines poured during our tour were a very high quality Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Charbono and a Cabernet/Malbec blend. Check the slide show for more about the wines. Even better, schedule a visit for a tasting and tour! The tasting room is open daily from 10am - 5pm. They are also having a [Holiday Open House](#) on December 6th which should be delightful.

