

FortBend

Lifestyles & Homes

Touring Napa and Sonoma, Part II

by Denman Moody

More Wineries That Are "Must Visits"

In the July 2016 issue, I wrote about some of the to-die-for wineries in Napa and Sonoma that are "must" visits. To view that article, visit houstonlifestyles.com, click on "Wine, Food and Travel" and scroll down to it. Since I have more to offer on this subject, the following are not to be missed!

SONOMA COUNTY

Moving on to Sonoma County, there is one winery that everyone should visit. Buena Vista Winery was founded in 1857 by Agoston Harazthy, and was the first premium California winery. Despite much success, the entire estate was sold at auction in 1878 —at some point earlier, Harazthy was supposedly killed by an alligator in South America — and the winery has changed hands about five times since. Finally, in 2011, Jean-Charles Boisset, who is married to Gina Gallo and is a wildly successful James Bond look-alike from the Boisset family in Burgundy, purchased the property and original winery and completed renovating everything in 2015. It is a historical treasure, and with David Ramey consulting on the wines, the wines are first-class. Plan to spend half a day there, as the choices include a press house tasting room, barrel tasting and cave tour, historical winery tour and tasting in the newly restored Champagne cellars, private reserve tasting, grand reserve library tasting, and family tours and picnic hampers with wine tasting.