



## 3 Personalities and 3 Sonoma County Cellar Door Experiences!

Fri, 26 Jan 2018

*Sonoma's cellar doors all have their own personalities with very different, creative offerings. From the glamorous and theatrical Buena Vista Winery, to the insightful and fun wine and herb pairing at Paradise Ridge to the stunning multi course lunch at Kendall Jackson you can find the right cellar door to suit your personality.*

### **Buena Vista Winery: Eccentric Glamour**



Buena Vista winery is Sonoma's oldest premium winery named after its founder self proclaimed Count Buena Vista or Agoston Haraszthy. A spectacular series of buildings, there are no grapes are grown here, that stopped many years ago in the 1800's, but it remains a popular cellar door under the new ownership of Jean-Charles Boisset.

The count had a great vision for the area but a bout of phylloxera destroyed the vineyards and they have not grown here since. The bottles here are a tribute to him - the Count's Revenge with an crocodile snaking around the

bottle comes with it a tale of mystery. They say that the count passed away at the relatively young age and was last seen crossing a river in Nicaragua. Only his bag was found and it was assumed that he was taken by a crocodile.

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There are several experiences available at the cellar door. You can of course taste wine but you can also go behind the scenes into the champagne cellar which is not usually open to the general public and take a guided tour.

We are offered glasses of sparkling wine and take a peek into the member's lounge, a lushly decorated room with a bartender in costume.

This progresses into several of the rooms and it is almost like a wine playground. There is a wall of smells - you press the air pump which releases the aroma of truffle, honey or raspberries.

The champagne cellar is atmospheric and still bears the original pick axe marks by the Chinese labourers that worked there. We follow Don our guide into various nooks and crannies darting down corridors. Then we arrive at a door that he swings open to reveal a museum of tools.

In it we watch a 15 minute progressive tour and video detailing the history of wine making in the region. It's honestly rather delightfully spooky and eccentric (mainly because of the mannequins sitting at the dining table in the centre) but really quite interesting and details. We end our time there with a quick trip around the maze on the grounds.

