

# sonoma magazine

## 11 Unique Winery Experiences in Sonoma and Napa

by **SOFIA ENGLUND**



### Living History at Buena Vista Winery, Sonoma

Founded in 1857 by Agoston Haraszthy, Buena Vista is California's first premium winery. Haraszthy, a vivacious and eccentric pioneer, immigrated from Europe in 1840 in pursuit of the good life. Following in the footsteps of the forty-niners, he found the perfect terroir for "purple gold" north of the Bay in the late 1850s. As the self-proclaimed "Count of Buena Vista," Haraszthy established a reputation as an experimental vintner, a shrewd businessman and a flamboyant evangelist. (He died as he had lived — dramatically — in an alligator-infested river in the jungles of Nicaragua). The legend of Haraszthy and his winery is now recreated by Buena Vista owner Jean-Charles Boisset, a modern-day version of the eccentric count. The winery hosts a series of events throughout the year, including a Living History Extravaganza. (Photo by Crista Jeremiason)



Weary, somewhat bleary, of the spin-sniff-sip-swallow-or-spit wine tasting experience? These Sonoma and Napa wineries offer a little something extra to pair with your cabernet. Medieval fortresses and parterre gardens, swimming pools and baseball fields, riding horses and trolleys – there's plenty of reason to venture outside the tasting room on your next Wine Country trip. Click through the gallery above for all the details.