



'IN AWE' Just months after wildfire tragedy, Sonoma remains California's most blissful holiday destination

The Sonoma locals are just as bright and lovely as the California sunshine

By Heather Lowrie

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EVERYWHERE you go in Sonoma the friendly locals will tell you it is open for business — just months after it was hit by wildfires.

To be honest if we hadn't have heard the news about the tragic blazes on TV last October, we'd never have known there had been any.

We saw not one piece of evidence of the infernos which hit some of California's wine-making regions during our first trip to this utterly gorgeous region.

And that is testament to the local people and their neighbours in Napa and surrounding areas who have quickly got things back up and running for tourists — their life-blood.

Hubby Alan and I were greeted with sunshine and warmth when we arrived.

Bliss for March as all the wineries were welcoming visitors to try their delicious Chardonnays, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noirs and sparkling Blanc de Blancs.

Never ones to say no, we visted Buena Vista winery, one of the oldest in California (established in 1857) and took their historic tour.

Lead by an enthusiastic top-hatted guide we enjoyed a taste of fine brut champers before a nice chardonnay in a funky bar.

Think Great Gatsby meets Liberace.

