

VINEPAIR

KILLER BOO-QUET: 10 AMERICAN WINERIES WITH HAUNTED HISTORIES

Blane Bachelor

Wine and storytelling are often entwined. Winemakers spin yarns about a noble relative who planted the family plot centuries earlier, while sommeliers rave about the magical quality of sea breezes.

As temperatures cool and Halloween approaches, there's no better time to uncork a few spooky tales from wineries with spine-tingling pasts. To get into the spirit of the season, pour yourself a glass. From centuries-old murder scenes to on-site cemeteries, here are 10 wineries that celebrate their haunted histories.

BUENA VISTA WINERY

Sonoma, Calif.



For more than 50 years, strange things have been happening at Buena Vista Winery. People have spotted ethereal figures in 19th-century clothing, and heard footsteps on the roof or ghostly sounds of crying babies. One of the most recent encounters involved a team member who spotted the full-body apparition — that's a big-time score in paranormal circles, by the way — of a man in a black coat and distinctive mutton chops. He believes it may have been the spirit of General Vallejo, who also sported mutton chops and whose two daughters married sons of the winery's original founder. Paranormal experts back it up: The property has been investigated by several ghost-hunting groups that have documented all sorts of activity. Psychic mediums also report the presence of spirits.