



## Picture This: Museum in Oakville Toasts History of Napa Valley Wine



Jean-Charles Boisset, second from right, leads guests on a tour of the grounds outside 1881 Napa in Oakville, a wine history museum and tasting salon that opened in June 2019. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

OAKVILLE (AP) — At a spacious Victorian in the heart of California’s Napa Valley, light glows from the windows as guests inside study old tools and taste new wines.



Dusk at 1881 Napa, a wine history museum that opened in June in Oakville. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

1881 Napa, a wine history museum and tasting salon, opened this month in Oakville, about 60 miles north of San Francisco.

It offers self-guided tours on Napa Valley’s history and early pioneers, along with a collection of rare winemaking tools such as scalders, filters, spigots and soil injectors. A giant reproduction of an 1895 map of Napa County adorns the

ceiling.



An old bottle corker and sprayer in a window at 1881 Napa in Oakville. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

The Boisset Collection, run by French-born wine mogul Jean-Charles Boisset, bought the 145-year-old redesigned house earlier this year. It also purchased the adjacent Oakville Grocery, reportedly California's oldest continuously operating grocery store.

Robert Mondavi Winery.

1881 Napa looks out at the Mayacamas Mountains and the famous To Kalon Vineyard across the highway at the

The upstairs museum is open to the public and admission is free.



At the 1881 Napa Wine History Museum in Oakville, Calif, Jean-Charles Boisset talks about the release of 6.6.44, a wine that blends grapes from California and France, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

The ground floor holds a tasting room, where guests can examine soil samples and read about vineyards in different parts of the Napa Valley. Tastings contrast wines from cooler and warmer areas and those from hillsides vs. the valley floor. One option, called "Embark on a Journey Throughout the Valley," features 12 cabernet sauvignons.



Interior view from the mezzanine level of 1881 Napa, a wine history museum and tasting salon, opened in June 2019 in Oakville. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

"An extraordinary amount has been accomplished in this enclave in a short amount of time," Boisset said. "We want to create a destination that celebrates Napa's long history and its pioneering founders while exploring Napa's incredibly diverse terroir in one destination."