FACT SHEET

Founded in 1857 by Agoston Haraszthy, the self-proclaimed “Count,” Buena Vista Winery is California’s first premium winery.

The Count’s passion for innovation and excellence not only led to California’s first premium winery, but also to the development of the California wine world as we know it today. The Count saw the grand vision for producing fine wine in Sonoma, and Buena Vista was his vinicultural laboratory. He created the first gravity flow winery in California and excavated the first wine caves. He was the first to experiment with redwood barrels for aging and fermenting, and he brought over 300 different grape varieties from Europe to California.

Buena Vista joined the Boisset Collection in May 2011 and Proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset has returned the winery to its original glory with the complete restoration and re-opening of the Champagne Cellars, which were unavailable to the public for over 20 years. Buena Vista wines are being driven to greater heights under Winemaker Brian Maloney and consulting assistance from David Ramey, a renowned winemaker in his own right.

In 2013, Buena Vista Winery was named Winery of the Year by the California Travel Association.

Proprietor
Jean-Charles Boisset

Director of Winemaking
Brian Maloney

Consulting Winemaker
David Ramey

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If there were a book about the great early Californians and their influence on the future of the world, it would have to include a chapter on the remarkable story of Agoston Haraszthy and Buena Vista Winery.

**THE COUNT**

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At Buena Vista he created the first gravity flow winery, excavated the first wine caves, was the first to experiment with California redwood for wine barrels, embraced and shared premium European viticultural and enological practices, and brought in over 300 different varietals from Europe in his evangelistic drive to create the very best. And in a charming touch of grandeur, he began to call himself The Count of Buena Vista.

Buena Vista became the center of what is now a grand tradition in California wine: cooperation and enthusiastic collegial support for anyone who showed an interest. Haraszthy passionately extolled the virtues of California grape growing at every possible opportunity. He sold grapevines, wrote papers, shared his vision and pleaded with friends to invest, all the while winning widespread acclaim for his wines. In 1863 he created the Buena Vista Vinicultural Society (BVVS), an association committed to expanding and modernizing the wine industry—the first of its kind.

The mercurial Haraszthy was drawn away to Central America, where he died crossing an alligator-infested stream in the jungles of Nicaragua. Buena Vista continued to produce outstanding wines and developed a reputation of excellence throughout the world. In 1873 the wines made from Haraszthy’s vineyards won numerous international winemaking accolades and awards in London, Vienna, Antwerp, Australia, Chile, Japan and even Paris.
Despite this success, Buena Vista and the BVVS succumbed to the financial pressures of the late 1800s and ceased production. In 1878, the Buena Vista Vinicultural Society (BVVS) auctioned off the entire estate. The 1906 earthquake and the rampages of phylloxera ended the commercial activities at the winery. Prohibition followed shortly thereafter, creating a new world in America; one where wine could not play a role as a powerful part of the economy. Where vineyards once flourished, prune, walnut and pear orchards now grew. And at Buena Vista, the moss-covered stones of The Count’s great winery were silent and empty. They stayed that way for many years.

The Great Depression and World War II created another great wave of immigration. The economy boomed, and the repeal of Prohibition opened the doors to a new future for California wine. Like the gold miners of 1849, these new immigrants quickly fell in love with the land and lifestyle of the Golden State. They reconnected to the land in ways that their predecessors had done nearly 100 years before. Soon they began to plant grapes and make wine, often seeking out older properties that once won fame and fortune. Among the first was a short Russian scientist named André Tchelistcheff.

THE TCHELISTCHEFF YEARS
In 1943 Frank and Antonia Bartholomew purchased the neglected Buena Vista property, sight unseen. They were enchanted with the idea of owning such a legendary part of California history, and they immediately set out to recapture the essence of Buena Vista, renovating its old stone buildings and replanting its acres of vines. With the onset of World War II, Frank Bartholomew, a journalist with United Press, left Sonoma to cover the war. When he returned, Frank was joined by famed winemaker André Tchelistcheff.

As consulting winemaker, Tchelistcheff was a force of a nature, an uncompromising taskmaster who drove the world of California wines once more onto the world stage. He forced growers to focus on quality, not quantity; he wrote articles, led seminars, and encouraged all who would listen to follow his lead. He introduced new winemaking techniques to Buena Vista and California, including cold fermentation and the process of aging wine in small French oak barrels. The winery released its first post-Prohibition vintage in 1949, and it was hugely successful. In 1968 the Bartholomews sold the winery to distribution giant Young’s Market, who invested in a major reconstruction and then sold it to international wine merchant Marcus Moller-Racke. In subsequent years Buena Vista became a popular brand and was sold in turn to Allied-Domecq and then Beam Wine Estates.

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Jean-Charles Boisset, Proprietor of Boisset Collection, a producer and importer of fine wines founded in Burgundy, France, purchased the Buena Vista Winery in May of 2011. Boisset sensed the power of this place and appreciated the historical importance of Buena Vista to California and its people.

The Buena Vista wine cellars have undergone extensive restoration from 2011 to 2015 when the renovation was completed. Once again, Buena Vista is becoming the embodiment of the California wine world. This is the vision that Count Agoston Haraszthy predicted 150 years ago and continues with Jean-Charles Boisset to today, and like many of his other visions for the Golden State, today it has come true.
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Later that year, Buena Vista was also awarded the 2013 California Preservation Design Award for “Craftsmanship/Preservation Technology” at the 30th Annual California Preservation Awards in San Francisco. The Champagne Cellars at Buena Vista, a California Historic Landmark, were seismically retrofitted using innovative technology called center core drilling, making it possible to restore and preserve the original look and feel of the façade of the cellars, as it had originally been built in 1857. The California Preservation Foundation recognized the renovation and seismic strengthening of the Champagne Cellars as having “maximized retention of character-defining features while minimizing visual impacts.”

The Champagne Cellars last produced wine in 1979 and closed to the public after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Jean-Charles Boisset, proprietor of Buena Vista, has made the restoration of the winery his duty to remind the world of its extensive role in winemaking history. “Buena Vista’s future is its past. Our mission is to preserve and perpetuate the imaginative vision and unrivaled legacy of the winery’s founder and to protect the first grand estate of the California wine world for the world to discover.”

On August 24, 2014, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.0 struck in Napa and Sonoma, toppling buildings, despite having been retrofitted for earthquake safety protection, and causing significant damage and several fires. Early estimates by California officials indicated over $400 million in damage.

Buena Vista Winery survived the earthquake thanks to the immense care and effort to restore, protect and preserve this precious monument – the White House of Wine – for future generations. Jean-Charles Boisset, alongside Tom Blackwood, Buena Vista’s Director of Retail Operations, hurried to Buena Vista after the earthquake struck to find the Champagne Cellar completely intact and only a wired bird cage tipped over.

In early 2015, the full restoration and renovation of Buena Vista Winery was complete with the unveiling of a new first-of-its-kind, here in the US, Historic Wine Tool Museum, which provides guests visiting Buena Vista a first-hand experience that is a twenty-minute light, sound and visual show, presenting the story of winemaking through its tools. For us, this is the crowning achievement in the revitalization of Buena Vista Winery, returning the iconic California wine property to its former glory and signifies Boisset’s dedication to the preservation of Buena Vista for future generations.
For Agoston Haraszthy, even his first year of life was unusual. He was born into the noble Pest family (which has given its name to the capital of Hungary, Budapest) in 1812. It was a time of great political upheaval: Napoleon had swept through Europe, altering centuries of traditional allegiances among the nobility, thereby creating new power structures and potentially deadly new alliances. Despite his noble birth, Haraszthy did not inherit a family fortune. In fact, his family was rich in tradition but cash poor.

As an officer in the Hungarian National Guard for Francois I, Haraszthy found himself associated with major political figures. But when two of his close friends were imprisoned by the Hungarian government, he feared for his life. He quickly escaped from Hungary to immigrate to the wide open spaces and political freedom of the United States. When he arrived in Wisconsin in 1840, he founded a town that he named “Szepataj”, Hungarian for beautiful view. Now known as Sauk City, the earliest roads, gristmill, sawmill, and steamboat line for Szepataj/Sauk City were all created by Agoston Haraszthy.

Haraszthy’s enthusiasms were legendary, and he quickly shared his passion for this new country in a book that praised the opportunities he had found in this young country. Titled Travels in North America, it became popular in many parts of Europe and stirred up both popular interest and an influx of immigrants into the U.S.

The Great Depression and World War II created another great wave of immigration. The economy boomed, and the repeal of Prohibition opened the doors to a new future for California wine. Like the gold miners of 1849, these new immigrants quickly fell in love with the land and lifestyle of the Golden State. They reconnected to the land in ways that their predecessors had done nearly 100 years before. Soon they began to plant grapes and make wine, often seeking out older properties that once won fame and fortune. Among the first was a short Russian scientist named André Tchelistcheff.

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In 1849, the electric news of California’s gold rush helped him decide that the future lay to the West. In short order he closed out his projects in Sauk City and joined a wagon train that was forming nearby, where he was elected to the position of captain. He arrived in the best of company, delivering the wagon train to San Diego in the legendary year of 1849.

He began planting grapes and fruit orchards, operated a stagecoach line and opened a butcher shop. In addition, he completely reorganized an entire section of the San Diego Bay shoreline into streets, building lots, and city parks. The locals even took to calling the area “Haraszthyville”. Taking advantage of the groundswell of public support and recognition, he ran for office and was elected as San Diego’s first sheriff then Marshal. He gained a reputation—both good and bad—for his vigorous enforcement of the law. California became a state in 1850, and Haraszthy was then elected to the California State Assembly. It was while serving in the State Legislature that he met General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the last Mexican Governor of California. It was a relationship that would later spur the creation of the California wine world as we know it today.

But these accomplishments did not come without criticism. Intrigue and innuendo seemed to follow Haraszthy wherever he went. After a move to San Mateo, he became a partner in the Eureka Gold and Silver Refining Company. The Mint contracted with his company to process gold coming in from the famous strikes in the Mother Lode foothills of the Sierra Nevada. In 1857, when gold was found to be missing from the Mint, suspicious eyes turned to Haraszthy who was the Mint's first Chief Assayer. He explained the discrepancy by pointing out the residual gold dust that coated the chimneys and covered the rooftops near the Mint. Although fully exonerated, he decided it was time to move on.

It was at this point that Haraszthy remembered his conversations with General Vallejo about the remarkable region north of San Francisco Bay. He visited Sonoma County and was enchanted with its unique combination of soils and climate. Haraszthy knew immediately that the site would be perfect for grape growing. He planted vineyards and constructed an elaborate home and a beautiful stone winery. He called the estate Buena Vista, Spanish for beautiful view. And in a charming touch of grandeur, he began to call himself The Count of Buena Vista.

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TIMELINE

1812 – Hungarian Agoston Haraszthy is born into the noble Pest family (of Budapest).

1830 – Jean-Louis Vignes brings the first vitis vinifera to California.


1846 – Bear Flag Revolt in Sonoma.

1848 – Gold is discovered in California.

1849 – The Count leads a wagon train to California and settles in San Diego, becoming its first sheriff.

1852 – The Count migrates to northern California.

1857 – The Count establishes Buena Vista Winery, California’s first premium winery, and produces his first vintage.

1860 – More than 250 acres are planted. Charles Krug, a friend of The Count, purchases land and starts planting vineyards.

1861 – The Count brings back over 300 cuttings from Europe’s finest vineyards.

1862 – The historic Press House, the winery’s tasting room today, is constructed. Haraszthy’s report on “Grape Culture, Wines and Winemaking” written for the State of California is published.

1863 – The Buena Vista Vinicultural Society, dedicated to expanding and modernizing winemaking, is established at Buena Vista.

1864 – Haraszthy has California’s first wine caves completed at Buena Vista.
1869 – Haraszthy disappears in Nicaragua.

1873 – Buena Vista receives numerous winemaking accolades and awards from around the world.

1878 – Despite successes, Buena Vista succumbs to financial pressures and ceases production. The property is sold to the Johnson family, who use it as a private family retreat.

1906 – The great earthquake and the rampages of Phylloxera end commercial activities at the property. The Johnson family donates Buena Vista to the Catholic Church, who in turn sell it to the State of California.

1919 – Prohibition enacted in the United States.

1920 – Wall Street crash launches the Great Depression, starting a migration West for jobs.

1934 – Prohibition repealed. Less than 50 wineries in Sonoma County survive.

1943 – Frank and Antonia Bartholomew purchase the long-neglected Buena Vista property, refurbish its buildings and winery and replant the vineyards.

1949 – Buena Vista Winery releases its first post-Prohibition vintage with André Tchelistcheff as consulting winemaker.


1989 – The caves are closed to the public due to damage by the Loma Prieta earthquake.

2007 – Haraszthy is inducted into the Culinary Institute of America’s Vintners Hall of Fame.

2011 – Buena Vista becomes part of Boisset Family Estates.

2012 – Jean-Charles Boisset leads a massive restoration of the caves ensuring Buena Vista’s place as the creative embodiment of the California wine world.

2013 – Buena Vista is selected Winery of the Year by the California Travel Association and also awarded the California Preservation Design Award for “Craftsmanship/Preservation Technology” at the 30th Annual California Preservation Awards in San Francisco.


August 24, 2014 – the Napa earthquake strikes measuring 6.0 and topples buildings in Napa and Sonoma – Buena Vista Winery survives thanks to the retrofitting done in 2013.

2015 – The full restoration of Buena Vista Winery finishes with the unveiling of a new first-of-its-kind in the US, Historic Wine Tool Museum, which presents the story of winemaking through its tools.
May 18, 2016 – Buena Vista Winery is awarded the Sonoma Leagure for Historic Preservation Historic Preservation Award, for Jean-Charles commitment to preserving historic buildings such as Buena Vista Winery.

June 9, 2016 – Buena Vista Winery Adds to its Winemaking History & Legacy with the Launch of Chateau Buena Vista Napa Valley Cabernet and La Victoire Champagne.
EXPERIENCE

Before there were vineyards in every valley north of San Francisco, before Napa and Sonoma were household names, before there was a California wine world at all, there was Buena Vista. The Count of Buena Vista has been called the Father of California Viticulture for his introduction of innovative winegrowing techniques, his championing improvements in the quality of grapes, and his steadfast and tireless promotion of California’s ability to become one of the greatest fine wine regions in the world.

PRESS HOUSE TASTING ROOM
Our historic winery is open for tasting and tours year-round. We offer a wide selection of award winning wines, a gift shop featuring gourmet foods, elegant and whimsical merchandise, and beautiful picnic areas. The Press House, when completed in 1862, was the first gravity-flow winery in California. Today, it is a dramatic tasting room steeped in wine lore.

$20 Per Person for up to 7 guests | $30 Per Person for groups of 8 or more. Wine Club Members complimentary for up to four guests.

HISTORIC WINE TOOL MUSEUM TOUR AND TASTING
High atop the Champagne Cellars at Buena Vista is a unique museum – a collection of historic Viticulture Tools from France. Requiring a special permit from the French government to bring to America, the tools contained within our museum are beautifully arranged in artistic patterns against the ancient stone walls carved from the Mayacamas Mountains in 1864. You will be guided by a figure from Buena Vista’s past, journey back in time and learn the amazing story of California’s winemaking history and discover the Count of Buena Vista and his historic winery; while tasting exclusive current release wines, and exploring the recently renovated property and Champagne Cellars.

$25 per person | $20 per Wine Club Member. Museum-only tour also available for $10 per person, children with paying adult are free. Available daily at 11 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM. Reservations recommended but not required.

BARREL TOUR AND TASTING
Explore the delights of our historic property! Your tour will begin with a stroll through our beautiful grounds, followed by a journey through our newly renovated Champagne Cellar. Learn about the founding of Buena Vista and the history of our original founder. We will take you from 1857 to the present while you enjoy a flight of Buena Vista current release wines. Next you will step into the caves of Buena Vista to sample wine thieved directly from a barrel!

$40 per person | $32 per Wine Club Member. Available 11 AM and 2 PM by appointment.

PRIVATE RESERVE TASTING
Enjoy a tasting flight unlike any other as you and your guests sample four Private Reserve and limited-production wines in our Historic Press House Tasting Room.

$35 per person | $28 per Wine Club Member. Available daily between 10 AM and 4 PM. No reservations required.
GRAND RESERVE TASTING
Discover the best that Buena Vista has to offer with this private, seated tasting experience featuring exclusive Buena Vista library wines – carefully selected for your enjoyment. You will enjoy your tasting in the quiet seclusion of one of our historic caves for a truly unique experience.

$50 per person | $40 per Wine Club Member. Available daily at 11 AM; 1:30 PM; and 3 PM by appointment.

BE THE COUNT – WINEMAKER FOR A DAY – BLENDING EXPERIENCE
Who would like to be The Count or Countess? Celebrate the art of winemaking by creating your own unique blend of wine! Guests craft three distinct blends of wine, choose their favorite, and bottle, cork, foil and finish their own bottle with their custom made label to take home and enjoy. In this 90-minute, once in a century session, we will guide you through the art of blending as Count Agoston Haraszthy would have done over 100 years ago. Enter our beautiful blending cave to create a personalized bottle of red wine that the count could have only dreamed to blend. You will play with Syrah, Merlot, Carignane and Zinfandel. Find the perfect palate, then bottle, cork, foil and label your bottle. You will design your own label and leave with a newly branded wine tailored to your masterful palate. The best part is you can order as many cases as you desire.

$100 per person | $80 per Wine Club Member. Available daily at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM by appointment.

PICNIC HAMPERS WITH WINE TASTING
Savor your wine country experience and relax in the Buena Vista picnic grounds! In partnership with Atelier Fine Foods, let us provide a picnic hamper for you and your guests filled with delectable delights! Your reservation will include two glasses of wine to enjoy with your lunch and a current-release tasting flight in our Historic Press House Tasting Room. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance. Hamper is for day-of use only. Choose from:

- **The Count’s Hamper for two:** rustic sandwiches, your choice of side salad and assorted sweet delights.
- **The JCB Hamper for two:** assorted artisan cheeses, charcuterie, rustic potato salad, baguette and assorted sweet delights.

Reservations are required 24 hours in advance and the hamper is for day-of use only. Both Hampers are $75 and include a Buena Vista wine tasting and two glasses for your picnic.
Buena Vista wines are the finest expression of true varietal character, with great acidity, balance and structure. Their personality reflects the region’s abundant stylistic diversity across the six tiers: Private Reserve, Vinicultural Society, Heritage Collection, Carneros, The Count and Sonoma.

PRIVATE RESERVE
Buena Vista has been making wines under the Private Reserve name for decades. Today the winery restores this title to declare these limited production wines as the ultimate wines within the portfolio. Each represents the pinnacle of Buena Vista's winemaking craft. Using the Sonoma landscape as the canvas, our winemaking team has the luxury of sourcing from the most esteemed vineyards throughout the county to produce the highest quality wines under this label. The two cooler climate wines of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are a nice complement to the warmer climate Cabernet and Zinfandel wines, allowing you to truly taste the best the county has to offer.

VINICULTURAL SOCIETY
The Buena Vista Vinicultural Society, formed in 1863 by the winery's founder, Count Agoston Haraszthy, to further improve its winemaking prowess and expand its vineyards, has been restored as a collection of unique, small-production wines that honor the winery's pioneering spirit and contribution to California winemaking. Available only at the winery and for club-members, the diverse selection of Vinicultural Society wines explores clonal selections, varietals, vineyards and the incredible terroir of Sonoma County.

HERITAGE COLLECTION
A tribute to some of the iconic wine styles from around the world that Agoston Haraszthy himself assisted in propagating in California. In the early days of Buena Vista, and what would become the Vinicultural Society, The Count and his son Arpad were commissioned by the Californian government to travel throughout Europe and bring back vine cuttings. After months of travel they succeeded in bringing back over 487 different varieties, modern winemaking techniques and styles that would go on to influence the likes of Charles Krug and many others.
CARNEROS
Inspired by its pioneering roots, the winery began in 1969 to explore a little-known corner straddling Sonoma and Napa's southern boundaries known as Carneros. Because of its proximity to the San Pablo Bay, the Carneros AVA is the coolest and windiest AVA in Napa and Sonoma counties. The region covers 90 square miles along the southern end of the Mayacamas range, with elevations ranging from sea level to 400 feet. It wasn't long until Carneros gained recognition as one of the world's premier appellations, particularly for varietals that can thrive in cool climates. Carneros is home to loamy clay and gravelly loam soil, that have a high calcium content. The persistent wind, the coolness of the region and the shallow soils keep yields small; with delayed yet concentrated ripening that results in wines with intense, vivid flavors.

THE COUNT
The winery's colorful founder Agoston Haraszthy, The Count of Buena Vista, pioneered premium winemaking in California. A tireless and passionate devotee of California wine, The Count imported hundreds of premium vines from Europe, dug Sonoma's first wine caves, introduced innovative viticulture techniques and wrote the first treatise on California wine. Buena Vista Winery honors his legacy, bold vision, and commitment to excellence through this red wine - the Founder's Red Wine.

THE SHERIFF
The story of our founder is as long as it is colorful. One of California's first sheriffs, Agoston Haraszthy was elected the Sheriff of San Diego County in 1850. He built the first jail and served two exciting years before moving north to pursue purple gold and the perfect terroir for fine wines. He found it in Sonoma County where he established Buena Vista Winery in 1857. It is his legacy that inspired this wine and the work of sheriffs everywhere that we honor with its release.

SONOMA
With its roots so deeply ensconced in the foundations of Sonoma as one of California's leading wine appellations, Buena Vista Winery is again introducing wines from Sonoma. The Sonoma wines include an array of varietals that celebrate the diversity of Sonoma's terroir and the contribution of Buena Vista to establishing the California wine world.
Jean-Charles Boisset was born into the world of wine in the village of Vougeot, Burgundy, France. His lifelong passion for wine began as a child, growing up above the cellars and within view of the centuries-old vineyards of Château du Clos Vougeot, the epicenter and birthplace of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

His parents, Jean-Claude and Claudine, founded the family winery in 1961 with an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in one of the most traditional winegrowing regions in the world. Today, the family collection includes wineries that share more than 18 centuries of combined winemaking heritage and tradition in some of the world’s most prestigious terroirs, from Burgundy to the South of France, to California’s Napa Valley and Russian River Valley.

Jean-Charles leads the family firm with passionate commitment to fine wine, history, quality and a deep respect for the environment. He implemented organic and Biodynamic farming at all of the family’s estate vineyards in Burgundy and California. Together with his sister Nathalie, he created Domaine de la Vougeraie, uniting the family’s Burgundy vineyards, including prestigious monopoles such as the Vougeot 1er Cru Clos Blanc de Vougeot – planted in 1110 by the Cistercian monks, into one of Burgundy’s leading domaines. He instituted the concept of “viniculteur”, redefining the company’s traditional role to encompass a close and active interest in all aspects of winegrowing to ensure premium quality and sustainable farming practices. He refashioned and elevated the family’s founding winery bearing his father’s name – Jean-Claude Boisset – into a premier boutique vigneron in the Cotes de Nuits.

In 2003 Jean-Charles brought DeLoach Vineyards, a pioneering producer of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Zinfandel in Sonoma’s Russian River Valley, into the family collection. He immediately recognized the similarities to Burgundy: each boast a confluence of river, mountains, and soil that is perfect for growing world-class Pinot Noir. He began a mission, inspired by his Burgundian heritage to produce terroir-driven wines with the same commitment to terroir and organic and Biodynamic farming he had instituted in Burgundy. In 2009 Jean-Charles’ quest for California wineries with a sense of history, heritage and a pioneering spirit, led him to Raymond Vineyards in the Napa Valley, where five generations of family winemaking anchors it to the earliest days of the Napa Valley. Under his vision, Raymond has become a leading producer of luxury fine wines, implemented organic and Biodynamic farming on its 100 acre Rutherford estate, and become among the most dynamic winery destinations in California, earning “Winery of the Year” honors from Wine Enthusiast magazine. In 2011, Jean-Charles’ dream of championing California wine history became a reality when Buena Vista Winery, California’s first premium winery, founded in 1857, became a part of the Boisset Collection. From this great foundation of historical, pioneering wineries in France and California, Jean-Charles’ sets forth a vision of the wine world centered on family, passion, history, innovation, a commitment to fine wines, and a dedication to sustainable winegrowing.
Decanter magazine has included him on its “Power List” of the fifty most important people in the wine world each year of its publication since 2007; in March 2008, he received the Meininger’s International Wine Entrepreneur of the Year; and in December 2008, he was named “Innovator of the Year” by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. The French America Foundation awarded him their first-ever French-American Partnership Award in 2013, bestowed upon an extraordinary individual or organization that has contributed to creating a strong and enduring French-American partnership in business, government, or academia. Haute Living Magazine named him to the Haute List San Francisco, recognizing the 100 most influential people in the San Francisco Bay Area. JFK University in Concord, CA named he and his wife, Gina Gallo-Boisset, their 2014 "Entrepreneur's of the Year" in an awards ceremony on May 16, 2014. Also in 2014, JFK University in Concord named Jean-Charles and his wife Gina Gallo its “Entrepreneurs of the Year.” In 2015 Jean-Charles was named an Honorary Co-Chair of that year’s Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction, which broke all records by raising a staggering $4.5 million. In March 2016, Jean-Charles and Gina received the Mondavi Food & Wine award Robert Mondavi Wine & Food award by The Collins College of Hospitality Management in honor of their vision and leadership to advance the wine industry.
The position of consulting winemaker at Buena Vista has a long history of adventurous and innovative winemaking, including the legendary André Tchelistcheff. Selected for the role by Jean-Charles Boisset, David Ramey is up to the task.

Ramey is widely acknowledged as one of America’s preeminent winemakers, helping to bring California to the forefront of the international wine world. David’s groundbreaking work with indigenous yeasts and malolactic and barrel fermentation yielded a new California style that is both lush and elegant, creating a benchmark now emulated by many. Most importantly, Ramey has a passion for expressing a sense of place in his wines, and he works closely with the Boisset winemaking team to ensure the wines are a true reflection of the character and style of Sonoma.

David Ramey’s career began with a graduate degree from the University of California, Davis, where his 1979 thesis on volatile ester hydrolysis (how flavors evolve in wine) is still used as a reference today. From Davis he went to France, where he worked for the Moueix family at the renowned Pétrus property in Pomerol. There he learned to balance the science of UC Davis with more time-honored methods of winemaking in France.

With this background and the drive to make truly remarkable wines, Ramey helped establish a number of wineries that set standards for winemaking quality and style: Chalk Hill, Matanzas Creek, Dominus Estate and Rudd Estate. In 1996 Ramey and his wife Carla started their own winery: Ramey Wine Cellars. David Ramey continues to drive himself to make great wines. He harvests grapes at the last possible moment, bringing enormous focus and attention to this key winemaking decision. Once harvested, the grapes are made into wine using a combination of science and traditional methods that his former professors considered risky at best. The rewards are wines that have earned high praise among colleagues, consumers and the media alike.

“It is a real pleasure to be part of the dynamic Buena Vista winemaking team,” says Ramey. “The history of this place and its people, the legendary wines, and the prospect of being a part of its rebirth with the Boisset family at the helm—it is an opportunity I cannot pass up. My goal is to help Buena Vista achieve its goal of crafting wines with true Sonoma character: balance, harmony and deliciousness.”
Brian Maloney was born on his family’s historic ranch in the Petaluma Gap straddling the Marin and Sonoma County border. Inspired by his grandmother’s stories of her father’s struggles growing grapes and making wine in the Calistoga area before, during and after Prohibition, he enrolled in the world famous Viticulture and Enology program at the University of California, Davis. While there he fell in love with the diverse nature of the discipline and began a series of internships with wineries in Sonoma, Marin and the Sierra Foothills. Following graduation he worked the harvest of 2003 at DeLoach Vineyards and has remained there ever since, playing a key role in elevating the winery’s Pinot Noir pedigree, expanding its vineyard-designate program, and planting and establishing its Biodynamic® estate vineyard.

With generations of farming and winemaking in his background, Brian has always taken to letting the terroir show first. Whether it is cool climate Pinot Noir or Old Vine Zinfandel, his ultimate goal is to let the interaction between the site, the vine and the grower shine through to set the style of the wines. This has led to amazing accolades and awards for his wines, including an impressive array of 90+ scores from Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast and Wine & Spirits starting in 2009, his first vintage as head winemaker.

Brian expanded his responsibilities to include overseeing the rebirth of the legendary Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma after Jean-Charles Boisset purchased the historic winery in 2011. In 2012, his team was the first to make wine in the historic Champagne cellars in over 30 years, a celebration that was punctuated by the joining of Tokaji and Sonoma as Sister Cities on the first day of harvest for the reopened cellars. In addition, Brian guides the Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays of the JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset collection, and worked with Jean-Charles and Gregory Patriat, winemaker at Jean-Claude Boisset winery in Nuits-St.-Georges, France, to create the innovative and critically-acclaimed JCB No. 3 – a wine that unites the best of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir with the best of Burgundy.

When Brian does find spare time, he enjoys gardening, reading vociferously, cooking amazing dishes with his wife Erinn and spending time with their two sons, exploring new music and regions and living in one the best places on Earth.