

NapaLife

***For those who live in Napa Valley –
and those who wish they did...***

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An Insider's Look at Napa Valley

Volume 9 Number 9 March 4, 2013

Plans progress for the Shops at Napa Center

Though he's keeping a low profile for now, Todd Zapolski's plans for the revitalized Napa Town Center, now called the Shops at Napa Center, are moving along aggressively.

He's expecting to start some construction soon, but there's a limit to what can happen before the major tenants are ready to move. He's waiting until he has a critical mass before announcing any, but some things are already clear: He's seeking a mix of strong local shops plus national brands. People want both familiar stores plus ones they can't find at home.

Some of the present tenants will stay, though they may move, and others are quietly leaving with his blessing.

The biggest change in the center will be the additional of a multistory hotel along First Street including and above the old Merrill's Drug Store, though he'll keep the attractive façade of the building.

The entrance would be along First; a preferred location on reopened Coombs Street is being thwarted by the owner of the rundown building there, who won't sell his property after multiple offers.

The historic building housing Sushi Mambo, which Zapolski didn't buy, will remain, though that restaurant is sure to benefit from increased traffic.

He will also replace the bank building on First, which is now his office. The whole of First Street (except the hotel entrance) will be retail.

They're tearing down the cover on the rotunda, which makes the area dark and uninviting, and trimming the east end on the building that now houses Gillwoods to provide visibility from First to Clay Street. Gillwoods' owners had decided to retire even before the center was sold.

West and south from that upgraded center patio will be the Marketplace with upscale retail. Considerable work will be done to update the area and add appeal. The projecting Ben & Jerry's will hopefully move, for that area will be trimmed back to provide a patio for the hotel lounge.

East from the present rotunda will be the cafés, restaurants and other shops with al fresco seating.

One space will likely house a large nightclub with music and entertainment.

With two-way traffic returning to First Street, visitors will be able to see into the excitement of the center; it's now largely invisible.

That would make the corner with the toy store and Kinkade gallery very valuable space, ideal for a class retailer if the present tenants move inside, where there will be heavy foot traffic drawn by retailers and cafés.

Attracting visitors is critical to success, and the new hotel and the Andaz, as well as the expanded Napa River Inn, Westin, River Terrace and the promised luxury hotel to be built by the Oxbow should bring in many more.

Still, Zapolski wants to make the area very attractive to locals. One exciting proposal is to turn Clay Street behind the center into a site for food trucks and other temporary food and retail concepts, closing the little-used street to traffic and adding communal tables and bathrooms, perhaps a central commissary and kitchen.

This is just an idea at this point, but would be very popular for locals, and the city seems favorable. At present, that stretch is foreboding between the blank back walls of the telephone company and the blank back walls of the center shops.

The proposals are very impressive, but they could have a huge impact on Napa, turning its retail desert downtown into a thriving destination.

It's ambitious, but remember that Walnut Creek was once a sleepy little town no one visited; now it's a major draw.

One caveat: I hope it gets well underway before the competing efforts in the Oxbow derail Napa's chance to recover from the redevelopment debacle of the past.

If you want to see large renderings of the proposals, you can visit the Zapolski Real Estate office at 1300 First St., but as it's basically in their conference room, call Kelly Moore first at 257-6600 or email kmoore@ZapolskiRE.com.

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Temporary tenants at Napa Center

Todd Zapolski is also renting out spaces temporarily to tenants who understand the situation, as well as offering them to nonprofit organizations with few takers so far.

This includes an office for the BottleRock music festival coming up in May, and an office (not a store, at least for now) for Lydia Mondavi's cosmetic company, Highway 29, which uses grapeseed oil in its high-end products.

A notice is also posted in that space for a tasting room for Spellbound, her father-in-law Michael's and husband Rob's wine company.

Paulitical commentary: While you're at it

Speaking of improving downtown Napa, how about doing some to the downtown plaza.

Eating lunch outside at Bistro Sabor (tasty but huge portions) the other day, I was struck by how tacky the plaza is. Peeling paint, dead plants, ugly newspaper racks.

And that horrible pile of rocks that was once a fountain. Can't the city at least get rid of that? It's an eyesore and dominates every view.

It's also an attractive nuisance. I've seen many small children climbing on it.

Will it take a horrible accident for the city to realize it has to go?

We have at least four eateries surrounding the plaza (five if you count Don Perico across the street), but none want to open onto the ugly sight.

Allegría, Rocabella and Don Perico all try to hide the view from their patio diners when they should be inviting it as in any plaza in southern Europe.

And it would be a great location for coffee and ice cream carts to enjoy the tables and steps.

Rumor central

"Ritz Carlton"

Well-placed sources report that we can expect some news shortly about the hotel space at Silverado and First Street across the Napa River from the Oxbow.

The project was approved, but there may be changes: It may not be a Ritz Carlton, as originally envisioned, but will be a top property. The original loan for the property was refinanced, and the rumors say the financing for construction is now in place or close.

Copia

Keith Rogal says that tenant improvements in our favorite white elephant could begin as early as April.

Vine Trail

It looks like funding is close for the critical bridge over a creek south of the train yard (I can't find its name) that would allow a connection from downtown Napa at the new park at the east end of the Third Street bridge south to Kennedy Park along the river. From there, you can bike to north of Yountville on existing bike paths, the one planned along Solano Avenue (already fairly bike-friendly) and a few other paths on roads.

They're also working up through American Canyon along the river.

The segment south from Calistoga to Larkmead is complete.

Vine Train

We haven't heard much about the proposal to study a local, commuter and visitor train running along the Wine Train tracks from Vallejo to St. Helena, but expect progress on securing the section south of Napa to be announced this year.

It should be noted that the tracks now end just past Charles Krug Winery, which is opening its impressive Redwood Cellar project with a deli and museum.

The tracks aren't useable right now, but wouldn't it be a boon for the winery if passengers could disembark there? They might also allow shuttles from there to the CIA or even upvalley to Calistoga. Of course, the tracks go to Deer Park Road, and that's a possible site for shuttles, too.

What short sight is was to allow *both* train rights of way to lapse in the past. There were separate electric and steam systems all the way to Calistoga. The tracks for the electric train remain visible outside Brannan's, while the steam train went to the depot down the street.

Del Dotto digging in Yount Hills

Many people have noticed the large caves being dug across from Napa Cellars Winery just north of Yountville.

The Del Dotto family, who owns a winery on Atlas Peak Road and one at Zinfandel and Highway 29, is building Ca'Nani Winery in the northwest corner of the Yount Hills where Yount Mill Road meets highway 29.

It will be a Del Dotto Family Winery but they are differentiating it from the current label.

They hope to have it opened by 2015 or sooner and have already launched this brand to get the consumer familiar with it.

Desirée Del Dotto says, Ca'Nani from Italian meaning "House of the Dwarves." Ca'Nani comes from a Venetian fairy tale from the Grimm brothers in the late 1800s.

The story was a predecessor of the 1937 classic movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* by Walt Disney.

She says, "We chose this theme for our new label because dwarves are jovial and light-hearted, and perhaps magical. We wanted to have a little fun with this label because so many people have such a

serious attitude about wine. We want all the wines we make to be not only great, but represent the joy and fun of wine as we share with others."

She continues, "This new product line will feature wines that are affordable, fun and meant to be everyday drinking wines."

They broke ground for the new winery in March 2012. It will have a permit to produce 48,000 gallons of wine per year (20,000 cases).

The 14-acre site will include a 16,000 sq. ft. cave area with four portals dug into the hill, a two-story, 16,000 sq. ft. winery building, a 1,000 sq. ft. guest house replacing two existing, nonconforming residences and 49 parking spaces.

The entrance to Yount Mill Road will be closed. It will have amphorae (of course) at the entrance on Highway 29.

The winery can have up to 75 visitors per day (Friday-Sunday) and 40

visitors per day (Monday-Thursday) by appointment only; 27 events per year with a maximum of 24 people (10 as evening events ending at 10 p.m.), two events per year with a maximum 49 people, one event per year with 100 people and one event per year with 300 people. It will get its water from a well on an adjacent parcel and build a new wastewater septic system.

A new main residence up the hill will be built on the adjacent parcel to the southeast with separate access from St. Helena Highway.

B Cellars moving to Oakville

Duffy Keys' B Cellars has bought a hilly 11-acre horse ranch on Oakville Cross Road across from PlumpJack Winery with neighbors like Screaming Eagle and Rudd, and will relocate the winery there.

The present location is at the Silver Rose Inn in Calistoga, which is destined to be replaced by a luxury resort.

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Keys plans to build a 45,000-gallon winery, a crush pad and caves for barrel storage.

The property now has two acres of cabernet grapes and some chardonnay. It has an existing permit for a 10,000-gallon winery that has never been used.

B Cellars has purchased that permit and wants to expand production to 45,000 gallons. It also wants to increase allowed visitors from 10 people per day to 60, and conduct marketing events.

Custom crush in a cave coming

A stalled project to build a custom crush winery in a cave off Soda Canyon Road is underway again.

The owner of the land that contains the cave went bankrupt, but things are sorted out now and the winery now owns 48 acres. It's not visible from Silverado Trail, but lies just below the crest; walk a few feet up the hill and you're overlooking the Stags Leap appellation.

The Caves at Soda Canyon winery is mostly underground. It contains 18,000 sq. ft. that is already dug (no more digging is needed). Some finishing work is underway. But they're only completing half the finishing for now.

Tim Blofeld, who shares managing duties with Ryan Waug, says construction stopped in 2008; the winery was supposed to open five years ago.

Now they expect half the cave to be ready for harvest on Sept. 1.

Though the facility will offer custom crush, it's now fully booked for the half being readied. The wine companies are existing Buoncristiani and Patland Estate Vineyards, both made by Jay Buoncristiani, and Waug and G Cellars. Buoncristiani is now made at the Ranch custom winery on Zinfandel Lane south of St. Helena.

It will have the usual limited tastings by appointment only. This will be especially welcome to Henry and Olga Patland, who had their hands slapped (\$64,000 worth) by the county for hosting tastings and selling wine without the right permit at their home. Their wholesaler license was also suspended for 15 days.

Joseph Cellars being built

Another winery under construction is Joseph Cellars at the base of Diamond Mountain in Calistoga.

Saviez Winery under construction

Still another winery being built is Saviez on the Silverado Trail at Larkmead. It is being built by Cliff Lede's ubiquitous Leducor construction company.

Winetasting.com coming to Riverfront

Winetasting.com will be opening a tasting salon in the Riverfront complex this spring. Peter Downey will manage the new operation.

The company is owned by 1-800-Flowers, which also owns The Popcorn Factory, Cheryl's fresh-baked cookies and desserts, Fannie May, 1-800-Baskets and Harry London gourmet chocolate candies, and I would anticipate some cross-selling with the wines.

Nakedwines.com coming downtown

Also, as reported here Dec. 24, Nakedwines.com, the hot crowd-funded wine company, is moving its U.S. offices to downtown Napa, and will be opening a tasting room with an elegant lounge where its member-investors can taste wines in a comfortable atmosphere.

It will be in an attractive building owned by George Altamura at 1141 First St. near the corner of Coombs. Get more information at NakedWines.com.

The Roost Consignment store

Roost Consignment specializes in vintage and one-of-a-kind "doo-hickies" for the home, garden and wardrobe. They also offer art classes on Monday nights.

It's at 1407 Second St in downtown Napa and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Visit roostconsignment.com or call 224-5600.

More stores on First Street

Though some have departed, a number of new stores have opened on First Street in the desert between Main and the West End.

Silver Sensations sells jewelry at Coombs and across the street, the Beaded Nomad has returned, while the Playful Garden is a gift shop full of interesting items. My daughter loves Yarns on First...

No rooms in town

BottleRock is definitely turning into a huge deal. All the younger people I encounter are talking about it, and many people are considering renting their homes out because hotel rooms seem to be almost gone.

Of course, you can't legally rent for less than 30 days, but I guess the renters don't have to stay all that time...

BottleRock has opened a temporary office on First Street.

Trivia at Bistro Sabor

In addition to its popular Salsa lessons and dances on Saturday nights, Bistro Sabor host popular Trivia Nights on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy beer, wine and Latin treats while you play.

Andaz adding music

The Andaz Napa now features live music every Wednesday at its Mercantile Social bar. Acoustic guitarist John Vicino will play from 6 to 9 p.m..

Andretti Winery partners with Il Posto

Andretti Winery is adding Il Posto chef Adam Clark to its roster of visiting chefs. The winery will offer both lunches and dinners.

Guests can savor the traditional Italian fare of Il Posto Trattoria paired with Andretti wines including Italian varieties such as Sangiovese, Pinot Grigio and Dolcetto as well as Cabernet and Chardonnay.

A sample dinner might include a first course of roasted beets, house-made ricotta, hazelnuts and arugula; then a raviolo with an egg yolk, nettle ricotta, pancetta and watercress; rabbit cacciatore with porcini and orzo; and dark chocolate tiramisù.

Dinner is served at 7 p.m., lunch at noon.

The price for dinner is \$95 per person; lunch is \$80 per person, both with a maximum of 16 guests.

The dinners are March 16 and 30, April 13 and 20, May 17 and 25, June 8 and 22, and July 5 and 19.

Lunch dates are April 27 and July 27

Events are by appointment. To make reservations, call Tenaya at 1-888-460-8463 Ext. 229

Med-Adriatic cruise with Violet Grgich

Violet Grgich of Grgich Hills Estate and her husband, Colin Shipman, will lead wine lovers on an Adriatic-Mediterranean wine cruise Sept. 7-19, including an optional visit to her father Miljenko "Mike" Grgich's Grgić Vina winery on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia.

Guests will experience the best of the Mediterranean onboard the Riviera, leaving from Venice, docking in Croatia, with ports of call in Greece, Italy, Monaco, France and Spain.

Violet will also be hosting private tastings of Grgich Hills Estate wines during the cruise.

Optional shore excursions also include Sicily, Tuscany and Marseille.

Staterooms start at \$5,374 per person including business class round-trip air to Europe. Visit www.foodandwinetrails.com/Grgich2013.

Musical theater competition for kids

Lucky Penny Productions will present a musical theater singing competition for youth titled "I'm the Greatest FUTURE Star!" in cooperation with Silo's as a tie-in to the company's May production of the classic musical *Funny Girl* at the Napa Valley Opera House.

The event on March 23 is open to singers aged 6 to 14 and will offer prizes worth more than \$100 to winners in two age groups.

The competition is limited to 30 contestants, and the deadline to apply is Monday, March 11. An application fee of \$10 is required to enter.

Get details and application at luckypennynapa.com.

Tickets for the show are \$20 at www.silosnapa.com or 251-5833.

The event serves as a fundraiser for Lucky Penny Productions, a certified 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Tickets for *Funny Girl* go on sale Feb. 25 at www.nvoh.org or 226-7372.

For more information see www.luckypennynapa.com.

Fish Story welcomes spring with half-off wine

Fish Story will offer every bottle and carafe of wine at half price during brunch, lunch and dinner service this March.

The promotion is available with no restrictions on the day of the week or the time of day.

Guests are invited to take advantage of the restaurant's comprehensive wine collection, which includes more than 175 different labels focusing on Napa Valley wines.

Following is a sample of the wines guests can expect to see at half-price throughout the month of March at Fish Story:

- 2008 Mumm Napa, Blanc de Blancs, Napa Valley 2008 Regular \$55 / March Price \$27.50
- 2011 Robert Sinskey, "Abraxas," Carneros, Napa Valley \$62/\$31
- 2010 Cliff Lede Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley 2010 \$54/\$27
- 2009 Laird Family Estate, "Red Hen" Chardonnay, Napa Valley \$58/\$29
- 2010 Shafer, "Red Shoulder Ranch" Chardonnay, Carneros, Napa Valley \$105/\$52.50

- 2011 ZD Pinot Noir, Carneros, Napa Valley \$87/\$43.50
- 2009 Long Meadow Ranch, "Ranch House Red", Napa Valley \$65/\$32.50
- 2009 Hendry, Block 28, Zinfandel, Napa Valley \$63/\$31.50
- 2008 Keenan Merlot, Spring Mountain, Napa Valley \$48/\$24
- 2007 Ackerman Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$135/\$67.50
- 2009 Round Pond Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford, Napa Valley \$110/\$55

Fish Story is at 790 Main St. at Third. For information or to make a reservation, call 251-5600 or visit www.fishstorynapa.com.

Farmstead's specials schedule

Farmstead at Long Meadow Ranch offers a number of specials Weekly Traditions dinners, fun, casual family evenings, featuring special menus in addition to Farmstead's regular offerings. Here's the lineup:

Monday – Family Night: A specially priced three-course fixed menu for \$29. The every-day children's menu including burgers, Mac & Cheese, grilled-cheese sandwiches and more is also available.

Tuesday – Chicken fried steak (first and third Tuesday) and fried chicken night (second and fourth Tuesday):

Chicken fried steak night features a three-course menu including Chef Stephen Barber's choice of salad, crispy batter-fried grass-fed Long Meadow Ranch beef with all the fixins', plus ag sweet for \$35.

Fried chicken night includes the chef's choice of salad, Stephen's fried chicken recipe with sides, and something sweet for \$35.

Wednesday is California Creole Night with a special menu featuring traditional Creole cooking with the best local California ingredients. Look for jambalaya, popcorn shrimp, pecan-crusted catfish, crispy boudin, grits with LMR beef grillades and gumbo.

The Restaurant at Meadowood adds features

The Restaurant at Meadowood has added several new features: a sheltered entry and expanded bar, a private dining room seating up to 12 guests, an interior wine cellar, additional custom-designed furnishings and art pieces, and new restrooms.

The new entry and expanded bar area, designed by noted architect Howard Backen, features a 20-foot

beamed ceiling, fieldstone walls, two fireplaces, large windows and a polished concrete-and-wood floor.

Guests will also find snacks at \$20 per person. The bar will be open Monday through Saturday evenings from 5 p.m. to midnight with wines available by the glass or bottle and an array of traditional and signature cocktails.

Guests can also now enjoy a three-course menu at the bar each evening at \$90 per person. The menu will change nightly and guests are encouraged to call ahead to reserve space as seats at the bar are limited.

The new private dining room overlooks a small, private garden, and is perfect celebrating special occasions and vintners wishing to host private dinners with their wines.

For more information on The Restaurant at Meadowood or to reserve a table, visit www.therestaurantatmeadowood.com.

To reserve seating at the bar or to inquire about the private dining room, call 967-1205.

Be the first of your friends to read *Nose*

If you want to be the first to read Jim Conaway's new novel *Nose*, you can pre-order it from Amazon.

It's also shamefully discounted to \$14.58 from the list price of \$24.99 for the hardcover book.

It will be released on March 12

KVON and KVYN updating formats.

New general manager Larry Sharp Wine Country Broadcasting has announced changes at 99.3 KVYN "The Vine" and 1440 KVON-AM.

He says that Wine Country Broadcasting's 99.3 KVYN "The Vine" has changed its music to more closely reflect the tastes of Napa Valley, and it is being called "Sauvignon Rock." "Like Sauvignon Blanc wine, The Vine's music is soft, elegant and vibrant," he said.

The "Good Morning Bob" show will continue weekday mornings from 6 to 10 a.m. featuring Bob St. Laurent playing a mix of Sauvignon Rock and hosting many local guests. It will no longer be simulcast on 1440 KVON.

1440 KVON-AM has been re-branded as "The Voice of Napa Valley Sports and News."

KVON will continue to cover local high school football, basketball and volleyball and will be adding baseball as well as some Napa Valley College sports, all voiced by Ira C. Smith. Ira will give hourly Napa

Valley Sports updates and there will be local Napa news reports each hour as well.

1440 KVON is also the home of play-by-play action with the San Jose Sharks, Oakland A's and Oakland Raiders.

6-9 a.m. Dan Patrick (Live)

9-10 a.m. - Today in the Napa Valley (local programming)

10 a.m.-noon - Jay Mohr

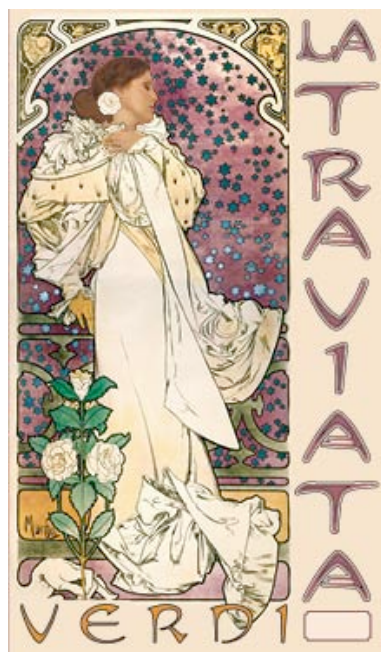
Noon-4 p.m. - Pat O'Brien and Steve Hartman

4-7 p.m. - Petros and Money

7-6 a.m. - ESPN Sports

Sharp says the station will still cover news with its limited staff, notably hourly Napa Valley news updates Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Opera comes to the Opera House!



Though the Napa Valley Opera House was never intended for operas – that was just a classy way to describe vaudeville and maybe burlesque – the Opera House has staged a few operas in recent years, including Don Giovanni yesterday, and has more coming: The Livermore Valley Opera presents Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* on Wednesday, March 13.

A favorite for 150 years, it features some of the most memorable and familiar melodies in opera. The production is semi-staged with orchestra and chorus and features an accomplished cast with wide U.S. and European experience:

Violetta: Rebecca Davis, San Francisco Opera Merola alum, a rising artist in demand

Alfredo: David Gustafson, frequent San Francisco Opera singer; recent Rodolfo in LVO's *La Bohème*

Germont: Torlef Borsting, former San Jose Opera Resident Artist, performs widely.

If you'd like to learn more, including the plot, always a good idea before watching an opera, there will be a short pre-curtain lecture at 7:15 p.m. in the theater.

Earlier, enjoy a Violetta Party from 6 to 7:45 p.m. to meet and mingle with opera patrons of Livermore and Napa. They'll serve heavy appetizers, wine and dessert. It will include some interesting surprises planned, including a friendly taste-off of Napa vs. Livermore Cabernet Sauvignon. The cost is \$35.

The Napa Valley Opera House Opera program is curated by Michael Savage.

Tickets for the opera are \$40 to \$60.

Upcoming operas include Pocket Opera's presentation of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* on Sunday, April 21, and a double bill of *Bastien & Bastienne*, by W.A. Mozart and *A Hand of Bridge* by Samuel Barber Opera with San Francisco Adler Fellows and the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra on Friday, May 3, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m.

The two one-act operas will be sung in English. The program will also include the Divertimento for Orchestra by Mozart, with Ben Simon.

Museum recognizes Women's History Month

In honor of women's history month in March, Napa Valley Museum presents Women of the Napa Valley, a new exhibit in the Museum's Spotlight Gallery.

This exhibit explores the cultural, economic and social impact woman had on development of Napa Valley from pre-history to the late twentieth century.

Featuring clothing, accessories, photographs and artifacts, the exhibit highlights influential women and groups such as Martha Coombs, Native Americans, pioneer Dixie Virginia Chiles' May 1883 wedding dress, Women's Improvement Club of St. Helena and Rosie the Riveter. "Some of Napa Valley's most influential pioneers were women, often overlooked by history books. We are trying to shed light on the impact of women in Napa County's past and present."

Napa Valley Museum is offering free admission to school groups during the month of March for students to see Women of the Napa Valley and the Main Gallery exhibition Dreaming of the West: Vintage Southern Pacific Photographs from the Collection of Ralph Domenici.

To reserve a free tour for your school, contact director of education Pat Alexander at pat@napavalleymuseum.org.

News for the wine community

Crimson Wine Group spins off from Leucadia

Crimson Wine Group, Ltd. has spun off from its parent company, Leucadia National Corporation. Leucadia stockholders received one share of Crimson common stock for every 10 Leucadia common shares held.

Crimson is now a separate public company that will eventually be listed over the counter as CWGL.

Crimson is the parent of Pine Ridge Cellars here as well as Archery Summit in Oregon, Chamisal Vineyards in Edna Valley, Seghesio Family Vineyards in Healdsburg and Double Canyon in Washington. Crimson president and CEO Erle Martin expects the company to double in size to a half-million cases and around \$100 million in sales by 2016.

The company becomes one of very few publicly held pure wine companies. In the past, most have done poorly in the market due to the disconnect between stockholder pressure for regular increase in sales and profits and the cyclical nature of the wine business.

The biggest wine company held by a company not in the beverage alcohol business is Ste. Michelle Wines Estates, which is owned by Altria, parent of Phillip Morris Tobacco and US Smokeless Tobacco Company. That company owns a majority of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars as well as Conn Creek Vineyards here.

Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

The *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, which has been acquired by local owners from the *New York Times*, is creating the North Coast Wine Challenge, a new wine competition focused exclusively on wines produced in this region.

It is partnering with wine trade magazine *Vineyard & Winery Management*, which has run a local competition.

The competition is now open for entries with a deadline of May 10. The judging will take place May 29-30.

Steve Falk, CEO of Sonoma Media Investments, owners of *The Press Democrat*, transformed the Cloverdale Citrus Festival's Wine Competition into the large *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition in his former role as publisher at the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Respected winemaker Daryl Groom will be chief judge.

For more information or to enter the competition, visit NorthCoastWineChallenge.com.

I wish them well, but I don't see why anyone would enter anything other than unknown, inexpensive or new wines in any competition. They have a tendency to pick unexpected selections like cheap, unusual wines from Arizona and Michigan as winners, and there's only one winner. Everyone else loses. That can be good for consumers, but bad for most wineries.

Seminar in best winery operations

The seventh annual seminar in best practices in winery operations:

Risks and Rewards, will be held March 14 and 15 at Napa River Inn.

Program chair K. Christopher ("KC") Branch of winelaw.net and the faculty will cover these topics:

- Social Intelligence and New Technology
- Legal and regulatory update
- Insurance considerations
- Human resources
- Stewardship for the land/vineyard conversion
- The do's and don'ts of winery events
- Brand management
- Trade practices
- Tax issues
- Changes and updates to wineries and vineyards
- Contract winemaking

Though the classes provide annual credit for lawyers, I've attended many and they're very helpful to wine industry participants, too.

The sessions are arranged by the Seminar Group.

Registration is \$895, \$695 for winery personnel. Get more information at www.theseminargroup.net.

Developing small home vineyards

The UC Master Gardeners of Napa County and the Town of Yountville invite the community to join them for a public gardening workshop, "Small Home Vineyard." This workshop will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Yountville Community Center.

Learn the basics of managing a small vineyard from bud break to harvest. It will address grape physiology, canopy management, vine nutrition, fertilization, irrigation and cover crops. You will

learn to identify and manage some common pests in the vineyard, especially powdery mildew, and where to find more information.

There is a charge of \$15 per person (\$10 for Yountville residents). Register through Yountville Recreation at 944-8712. For additional information, call 253-4221.

The Yountville Community Center is at 6516 Washington St. in Yountville.

Wine Country Hospitality Symposium

Chef Ken Frank, owner of La Toque restaurant in The Westin Verasa, will be the featured speaker at the Napa Valley College Wine Country Hospitality Symposium on Tuesday, March 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at its Upper Valley Campus in St. Helena.

Frank presents My Lessons - 20/20 Hindsight is Perfect, an introspective look at over 30 years in the hospitality business.

The conference will feature a number of panels:

Destination Marketing – A Global Perspective will be presented by Melodie Hilton, Director of Marketing and PR at Napa Valley Wine Train.

Key Strategies in Social Media will include panel members James Marshall Berry, chief strategy officer of Wine & the Web; Andrew Healy, chief social officer of 3 Rock Marketing; Shana Ray, a food, wine, and social media consultant; Kala Philo, owner of Edge Web Video; and Heather Piazza, principal of Piazza Marketing Concepts and marketing advisor at Napa Valley College's Small Business Development Center.

Dan Mishell, director of research for Visit California, and Aphrodite Caserta, director of marketing and communications for Safari West, will discuss their Best Trends and Practices in Eco Tourism.

The Hospitality Regulations and Collaborations breakout presents new laws on cottage food, approved sources of food and HACCP. Panel members include Stacey Harrington, consumer protection supervisor, Napa County Environmental Health Department; Mike Cromwell, culinary arts and hospitality management instructor, Napa County Office of Education; and Charlie Monahan, Napa Valley College Program Coordinator Business & Entrepreneurship Center.

This is an educational forum for business owners, managers and supervisors of restaurants, wineries, hotels, B&Bs, spas and catering companies.

The day includes a continental breakfast, keynote address, educational breakouts, catered lunch by Napa Valley College Cooking School, industry networking, wine tasting and silent auction, in the NVC Culinary Quad.

The event is presented by the Business and Entrepreneurship Center at Napa Valley College, Napa Valley College Small Business Development Center, Napa Valley College Foundation, California Community Colleges, the Economic and Workforce Development Program, Garden Party and Alkar Human Resources.

The cost is \$99 for early registration and \$125 after March 15. To register or for more information visit www.becatnvc.com or call 253-3210.

Napa Valley College Upper Valley Campus is at 1088 College Ave. in St. Helena.

Dishcrawl makes Napa debut

A local Bay Area start-up founded on the premise that communities can be brought together through good food and good company, is expanding to Napa Valley this month.

Dishcrawl takes food lovers on a gourmet adventure to four distinctive restaurants in one night, meeting the chefs and owners.

The first Dishcrawl will be on Tuesday, March 12 starting at 7 p.m. It will explore four undisclosed locations in downtown Napa for \$45. Buy tickets at dishcrawl.com/napa.

As part of the fun, participating restaurants are kept a mystery until two days before the event when the first location is unveiled to ticket holders.

Adding to the mystique, clues and hints are revealed on Facebook and Twitter along the way.

Penelope Moore is the Napa Valley Dishcrawl Ambassador. Call her at (801) 631-4584 or penelopem@dishcrawl.com.

This week in Napa Valley

This week at the Cameo Cinema

Monday, March 4 *Silver Lining Playbook* 5:30 and 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 5 *Silver Lining Playbook* 5:30 and 8:15 p.m.

Spring Semester Film Class: Foreign Films, drop-ins welcome 1 p.m. \$10

Wednesday, March 6 *Silver Lining Playbook* 2:30, 5:30 and 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 7 *Silver Lining Playbook* 8:15 p.m.

- LunaFest Short Films For, By, About Women 5:30 p.m. showtime, 7 p.m. and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres at a reception at Caldwell Snyder Gallery.

The cost is \$50 general for general admission, \$35 for seniors and students.

Friday, March 8 *Side Effects* 5:30 and 8 p.m.

- Art Film Series *Stand Up Guys* 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9 *Side Effects* 2:30, 5:30 and 8 p.m.

- Family Film Series *Escape from Planet Earth* noon

Sunday, March 10 *Side Effects* 2:30, 5:30 and 8 p.m.

- French Alliance Series *All Together* noon

Cameo Centennial Celebration March 15th Event:

Boots, Bar-B-Que and True Bromance, lasso your best buds and your best gal for this cinema classic: *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, enjoy BBQ, beer and wine, best hat gets free popcorn \$25 ticket.

The Cameo Cinema is at 1340 Main St. in St Helena. Phone 963.9779 or visit www.cameocinema.com.

Meals from, the French Pyrenees

This week's regional French dinners at Bank Café in the Westin Verasa will come from the Pyrenees:

- Spring onion soup
- Garbure with lamb sausage "en crepinette"
- Pear sorbet

The meal cost \$34.

The Westin Verasa is across from the Wine Train station

Agricultural tourism opportunities

Napa Valley College presents a seminar in agricultural tourism opportunities on Tuesday, March 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

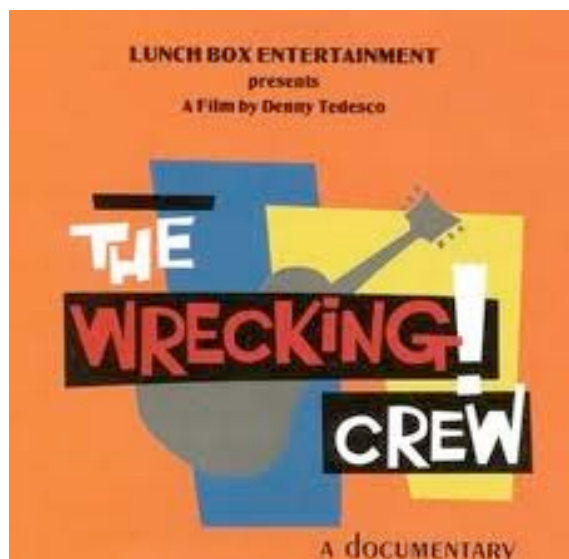
Agricultural tourism provides guests with education, entertainment, and a healthy dose of fresh air. It provides the agricultural property hosts with extra income, future sales and increased publicity.

This class will introduce the benefits of adding agricultural tourism opportunities and provide examples of successful operations.

After taking this class, you can sign up for free one-on-one business advising with the instructor and BEC Business Advisor, Teresa O'Bannon.

Visit www.becatnvc.org or call 253-3210.

It will be held at Napa Valley College Upper Valley Campus, 1088 College Ave. in St Helena.



The Wrecking Crew at the Opera House

The Napa Valley Opera House presents the film *The Wrecking Crew* on Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. It's about the studio musicians that recorded on many rock and pop hits.

Director/writer Denny Tedesco's chronicle of pop music's heyday delves back to the late '50s, the '60s and the '70s, an era of all-night recording sessions in cramped, smoke-filled rooms, when real musicianship was not only appreciated, it was demanded.

Stocked with rare, historical footage and interviews with the group's members along with testimonials from music giants Dick Clark, Herb Alpert, Glen Campbell, Cher, Brian Wilson, Jimmy Webb, Gary Lewis among many others.

Tickets are \$10, and a portion of the proceeds benefit distribution of the film.

Cindy's Supper Club

March brings French- and Italian-inspired spring dishes to Cindy's Supper Club at Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen in St. Helena on Wednesday and Thursday.

The three courses are \$33, or you can buy courses a la carte.

Here's the menu on March 6 and 7:

- Grilled Asparagus with organic fried egg, crispy pancetta and Parmesan \$11.95
- Sautéed Halibut with snap peas, pearl onions, fava leaves and lemon aioli \$26.95
- House made frozen yogurt with huckleberry sauce and pistachio cookie \$9

Historic Wineries of Napa County

The Historical Society of Napa County will open an exhibit on wine with a reception on Thursday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m.

The exhibit features the five wineries highlighted in the Historic Wineries Tour, a history of winemaking in Napa Valley, and a section on Hamden McIntyre, an architect who designed gravity-flow wineries.

RSVP is requested but not required. Call 255.1836.

Mustards Pour-Off Pair-Off Dinner

Mustards Pour-Off Pair-Off Dinner Series on Thursday offers diners the opportunity to pair renowned Mustards Grill cuisine with wines that are almost never offered by the taste or glass.

During March, they're knocking on spring's door with this menu on March 7:

- Sweet carrot soup with golden raisins and toasted walnuts \$8.50
- Forlorn Hope Semillon, Yount Mill Vineyard, Napa 2009 \$7/14
- Fava bean and mint goat cheese crostini with lemon olive oil \$12.95
- Mumm "Cuvee M," Napa NV \$7/14
- Grilled sea bass, braised cippolini onions, scallion butter, and matchstick fries \$27.95
- Evening Land Gamy Noir, Amity Hills, Oregon 2011 \$6/12
- Lamb "au pot," with sausage and cabbage stuffing \$28.95
- La Diligence Syrah, Stage Coach Vineyard, Napa Valley 2008 \$9/18
- Rhubarb streusel pot pie \$9
- Novy "Ole," Sweet Viogner, Russian River Valley 2010 \$6/12

Events at 1313 Main this week

1313 Main presents a winemaker evening and music this week:

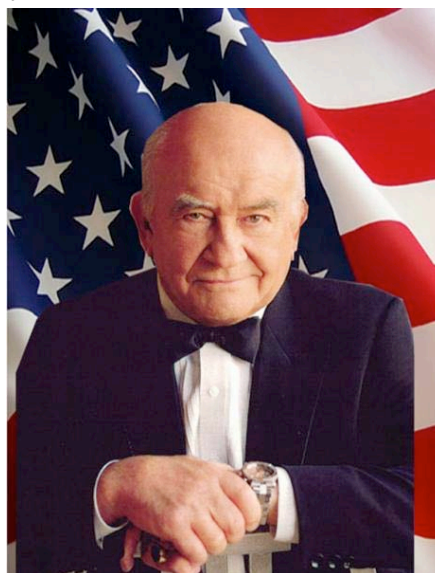
Wednesday, March 6, 6-8 p.m. Winemaker Wednesday with Orin Swift Cellars featuring Dave Phinney.

Thursday, March 7, 8-10 p.m. Live Music Thursdays with vocalist, guitarist and songwriter Brian Couch, who is originally from Seattle.

Couch on lead vocals and acoustic guitar with Charles Zook on backing vocals and guitar.

Music at Uva Trattoria this week

- Wednesday, March 6, Tom Duarte (Jazz-Latin Jazz)
- Thursday, March 7, Nate Lopez Trio (8 string guitar-Soul-Jazz)
- Friday, March 8, Jami Jamison band (Jazz-Swing-Blues)
- Saturday, March 9, Bernard Anderson & Old School band (R&B-Jazz)
- Sunday, March 10, Bob Castell (Jazz)



Ed Asner as F.D.R. at the Opera House

Ed Asner appears as Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the play *FDR*. at the Napa Valley Opera House on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

FDR explores the life of one of America's best-loved presidents and the events and decisions that shaped a nation. This powerful play follows the iconic president as he reflects on his years in office, from inauguration to the trials of World War II. Ed Asner, recipient of seven Emmy Awards and 16 nominations, stars.

Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Four "killer" Chateauneuf-du-Papes

Back Room Wines pours a killer lineup of Châteauneuf-du-Pape reds on Thursday, March 7 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The greatest wine region of France's Southern Rhone Valley, Chateauneuf-du-Pape brings together power, complexity and age-ability in their Grenache-based blends.

Here's the Châteauneuf-du-Pape lineup:

- La Bastide Saint Dominique "Secrets de Pignan" 2010 \$58
- Chateau de Vaudieu 2009 \$50
- Domaine Paul Autard 2010 \$43

and one more

The cost is \$20. Wines poured will be on sale at 10 percent discount during the tasting.

Agriculture Day at Napa Expo

Napa County Agriculture Day will be held at Napa Expo on Friday, March 8.

More than 1,000 local students – primarily second and third graders, 45 teachers and members of the public will attend this year's Ag Day, the annual educational fair for children showcasing the variety of Napa County agriculture.

The free event takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The day features livestock such as mini-cows, alpacas and sheep; demonstrations such as sheep shearing, horse shoeing, dairy cows and yarn spinning; and displays from farms like Long Meadow Ranch, hands-on education centers like Connolly Ranch, industry groups and more. It even includes a demonstration by a dog trained to sniff out contraband plants in the mail.

The event, presented by the Napa County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom and the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, celebrates National Agriculture Week. It also honors agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, contributing to a strong economy, and being a source of renewable energy and a world of job opportunities.

The Napa County Agriculture in the Classroom program is a non-profit organization that is a subsidiary of the National Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, a grassroots organization coordinated by the US Department of Agriculture. Find out more at www.napafarmbureau.org.

Napa Smith Brewery fifth anniversary

Napa Smith Brewery is turning five year sold. Help them celebrate Friday, March 8, from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m.

They will have a live acoustic duo, food options by Crossroad Chicken and \$3 beers.

Napa Smith Brewery is at 1 Executive Way, south of Napa



A Taste Tour of France at Back Room Wines

Take a trip around France by wine glass on Friday, March 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. as Back Room Wines pours wines from six different French wine regions.

Drink, enjoy and learn about wines from Champagne, Loire Valley, Alsace, Burgundy, Rhone Valley and Bordeaux.

The cost is \$15. Wines poured will be on sale for 10 percent discount during the tasting.

A celebration of wine and women

Women of the Vine, a collaboration of women winemakers, proprietors and sustainable family grape growers, will host a grand celebration of wine and women on International Women's Day, Friday, March 8.

Its first Grand Tasting will feature more than 30 of Napa Valley's best female winemakers and proprietors at the Westin Verasa Napa to pour their wines for over 250 guests.

The event will take place from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

These women winemakers will be present:

- Women of the Vine – Alison Crowe, Deb Brenner
- Mondavi and Portfolio – Genevieve Janssens
- Gallo Family Vineyards – Gina Gallo
- Cakebread – Julianne Laks
- Corison Winery – Cathy Corison
- Chimney Rock – Elizabeth Vianna
- Rutherford Hill – Marisa Taylor Huffaker

- Clos LaChance – Cheryl Murphy Durzy
- Ceja Vineyards – Amelia Ceja
- Ackerman Family Vineyards – Lauren Ackerman
- Inman Family Vineyards – Kathleen Inman
- William James Cellars – Robin Bogue
- Charles Krug – Stacy Clark
- Foley Estates – Leslie Mead Renaud
- Gary Farrell – Theresa Heredia
- Chalk Hill – Lisa Bishop Forbes
- Simi – Susan Lueker and Megan Schofield
- Desparada – Vailia Esh
- Wild Horse Wine – Chrissy Whitman
- Sequoia Grove Winery – Molly Hill
- Casa Dumetz – Sonja Magdevski
- Garnet – Barbara Ignatowski
- Artesa / Elements – Dana Epperson
- Carol Shelton Wines – Carol Shelton
- Honig Vineyard and Winery – Kristin Belair

For further information visit
www.womenofthevine.com.

Tickets are \$50 at womenofthevine.eventbrite.com.

David Ives' Comedy *Mere Mortals*

Napa Valley Conservatory Theater presents David Ives' comedy *Mere Mortals* March 8-17 in the Studio Theater at the Performing Arts Center Napa Valley College.

Directed by Danielle Cain, *Mere Mortals* is comprised of six one-act comedies by award-winning playwright, David Ives.

Napa Valley College is at 2277 Napa-Vallejo Highway in Napa.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors, at 256-7500, the box office or www.napavalleytheater.org.

Lincoln Kamm at Judd's Hill Winery

Judd's Hill Winery presents entertainer Lincoln Kamm in a benefit performance for Connolly Ranch on Friday, March 8 at the winery.

Lincoln Kamm is famous for his high-end and sophisticated yet very funny and friendly style of entertainment, and has performed at Hollywood's Magic Castle, Harrah's Casino, Disney Studios and Pixar Studios.

Each of Kamm's unique shows features a personalized blend of interactive mind-reading, comedy, and sleight-of-hand artistry.

Doors open at 6 ~ Performance at 7. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine sold by the glass.

Part of the proceeds will benefit Connolly Ranch's children's education programs.

Tickets are \$50 at www.connollyranch.org. For more information, call 256-3828. Judd's Hill Winery is at 2332 Silverado Trail in Napa.



Los Lonely Boys Acoustic at Uptown Theater

Los Lonely Boys perform an acoustic concert at the Uptown Theater Friday, March 8, at 8 p.m.

After proving themselves one of the most stunning and wonderful musical success stories of the last decade, Los Lonely Boys are now carving out their legend with their fourth studio album.

On Rockpango they heighten the trajectory, open up their sound, and show what flourishing maturity feels like from these veteran yet still young and burgeoning musical talents.

Rockpango paves the way for Los Lonely Boys to enter the rock'n'roll pantheon of legendary musical artists while also remaining true to themselves. Sarah Gwenn opens.

Tickets are \$45 and \$55 at uptowntheatrenapa.com.

Growing warm season vegetables

The UC Master Gardeners of Napa County and the Town of Yountville invite the community to join them for a public gardening workshop, "Warm Season Veggies."

This workshop will be on Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the UC Cooperative Extension meeting room in Napa and Sunday, March 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Yountville Community Center.

Plan and prepare now for your most successful vegetable garden ever. Learn what to plant from seed, how to choose transplants, and when to plant for a bountiful harvest from spring to fall.

There is a charge of \$5 per person for the Napa workshop. Register at ucanr.edu.

There is a \$15 per person charge (\$10 for Yountville residents) for the Yountville workshop. Register through Yountville Recreation at 944-8712.

For more information, call 253-4221.

UC Cooperative Extension meeting room is at 1710 Soscol Ave., Napa. The Yountville Community Center is at 6516 Washington St. in Yountville.

Pier 1 Imports to hold grand opening

Pier 1 Imports' new store in the Bel Aire Plaza in Napa will hold its grand opening on Saturday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m.

The store opened last week in the former Copperfield's bookstore site. Copperfield's moved a few feet away to a smaller space next to Whole Foods.

Oddly, Pier 1 is owned by the same company as Cost Plus World Market, which has a store in the same shopping center.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first 200 shoppers will receive a free reusable gift bag and Pier 1 Imports back scratcher.

Local guitarist Ken Kunst will play from 9 to 11 a.m. and KVYN-FM will provide a live radio remote from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit Pier1.com or call 251-5626.

Growing dahlias with great success

Dahlias do best if you know and understand their needs. Sharon Campbell and Greta Von Uhlit will explain them on Saturday, March 9, at Van Winden's Plant Center at 9 a.m.

The speakers have half a century of dahlia growing experience between them and would like to share their secrets with you. They will demonstrate dividing tubers, explain types of dahlias, how to plant and tend them and even how to stage them for the Van Winden Fall Dahlia Show.

They will also be dividing one of last year's show winners and giving tubers to the workshop participants.

The fee is \$10. Prepay to ensure admission.

Van Winden's Garden Center is at 1805 Pueblo Ave. in Napa. Email info@vanwindens.com or visit vanwindens.com.

Wine tasting with 11 wineries at Andaz

Andaz Napa will hold a wine tasting with 11 boutique wineries on Saturday, March 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Guests can meet with winemakers from each winery and have a chance to taste their wines.

Following the free wine tasting, Andaz Napa will offer a dinner with executive chef Sarah Linkenheil at Andaz Farmer's Table for \$75 each. Attendees can join five winemakers for dinner and conversation and sample some of their reserve wines. Dinner will begin at 8 p.m.

Space is limited for both events.

Wineries participating include Ahnfeldt, Frias Family, Galland Clark, Hiatus, Maldonado, Renteria, Reynolds Family, Robert Biale, Rubissow, Tres Sabores and Truchard.

Visit andaznapa.com or call 687-1234.

Andaz Napa is at 1450 First St. in Napa.

Gundlach Bundschu celebrates 155th year

Gundlach Bundschu Winery will mark the 155th anniversary of their Rhinefarm Estate Vineyard with a celebration on Saturday, March 9 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Bundschu family will commemorate the day with live music by Timothy O'Neil and Frankie Boots, grilled sausages and beer brats from Rosamunde Sausage Grill, plus library tastings and anniversary pricing on select Gundlach Bundschu wines.

Join the winery's effort to support our troops and receive a free tasting. Gundlach Bundschu has adopted the U.S. Army's 370th Engineering troop currently deployed in Afghanistan, sending monthly care packages with letters, supplies and tokens to show support.

Guests are asked to bring a multipack of granola bars for the troops, and will receive a free tasting on March 9 and 10.

Founded in 1858 and owned and managed by the sixth generation of the Bundschu family, Gundlach Bundschu is California's oldest winery still owned and operated by the same family.

The 175 acre Sonoma estate is located on the southwest slope of the Mayacamas Mountains, at the intersection of the Sonoma Valley, Carneros and Napa Valley AVAs.

The winery is at 2000 Denmark St. in Sonoma, just 15 minutes from Napa.

Calistoga “Mustard, Mud & Music”

The annual Mustard, Mud, and Music event is returning to Calistoga on Saturday, March 9 from 12 to 5 p.m. along Lincoln Avenue.

Enjoy 13 bands, 25 wineries, three art galleries, a wellness center and mustard-themed food.

The event arranged by the Calistoga Chamber of Commerce will include a full roster of musical talent showcasing various genres, from the sultry jazz of Maxx Cabello Jr., to rock 'n' roll of The Beatles Flashback, and everything in between.

Music venues will range from outdoor stages to intimate gatherings hosted by Calistoga downtown businesses. Other artists playing include Taylor Brown, The Reboobs, Michael Thomason Band, David Neft, Sally Fletcher, Susan Sutton Trio, Decades, Tritones, Vince Dawgs, Chris Vorland and more.

Participating wineries include Alienor Wines, Bennett Lane Winery, Canard Vineyard, Castello di Amorosa, Chateau Montelena, Envy Wines, Frank Family Vineyards, Joseph Cellars, Tedeschi Family Winery, Twomey Cellars, Vermeil Wines/OnTheEdge, Von Strasser Winery, Zahtila Vineyards/Laura Michael Wines, Ziata Wines and more.

Buy tickets online ahead of time for \$35. Tickets will be \$40 at the door. General admission tickets will include 10 tasting tickets good for music, wine and food tastes (extra tickets are two for \$5).

For details and tickets, visit calistogavisitors.com.

Dizzy Fingers at the White Barn

Six pianists lend their talents to an evening of music & fundraising at the White Barn on Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 4 p.m.

Antonio Iturrioz presents the art of left-hand piano music. Curt Pajer, accompanied by his wife Vanessa Conlin, will present selections from Schubert & Chopin. Pianists Michael Greensill, Elaine Elder, Linda Scheibal and Nancy Garden will present a lively evening of music with eight hands rounding out the performances.

This evening will help pay for the new Yamaha piano recently acquired by the White Barn.

Tickets are \$30. To reserve tickets, call 251-8715 and mail payment to The White Barn Box Office, 1241 Adams #1135, St. Helena, CA 94574.

The White Barn is at 2727 Sulphur Springs Ave. in St. Helena.

Visit www.thewhitebarn.org.



Fado singer Ana Moura at Opera House

Portuguese singer Ana Moura returns to the Napa Valley Opera House by popular demand on Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m.

She is “carving out a bold destiny for Fado” with her fifth studio album and Decca debut, *Desfado*, says the *New York Times*. She has emerged as one of Portugal’s leading voices of traditional Fado, which means “fate” with her mesmerizing interpretations of her country’s soulful answer to the blues.

Tickets are \$30 and \$35.

Sing Napa Valley! Shining Night concerts

Sing Napa Valley! (formerly Napa Valley Chorale) presents *Shining Night*, an evening of music written by Morten Lauridsen, in St. Helena on Friday, March 8, and in Napa on Saturday, March 9, both at 8 p.m. Besides Lauridsen’s well-known works (“Dirait-on,” “Contre Qui, Rose,” “Sure on This Shining Night,” “O Nata Lux,” and “O Magnum Mysterium”), Sing Napa Valley! will perform some of his lesser-known works, including the Napa Valley premiere of “Where Have the Actors Gone?”

The music will be interspersed with vignettes from the 2012 film, *This Shining Night: A Portrait of Morten Lauridsen*.

Sing Napa Valley!’s conductor and artistic director, Jan Lanterman, says she is “excited to present both sacred and secular works of the highly regarded and recognized contemporary composer, Morten Lauridsen.”

Lauridsen’s works have been recorded on over 100 CDs, three of which have received Grammy nominations including *O Magnum Mysterium* by the New York-based ensemble, Tiffany Consort, led by Nicholas White, and two all-Lauridsen discs entitled *Lux Aeterna* by the Los Angeles Master Chorale

conducted by Paul Salamunovich and Polyphony with the Britten Sinfonia conducted by Stephen Layton.

Buy tickets at www.singnapavalley.org or 261-6165. Group and senior discounts are available, and high school and college-level students will be admitted free of charge.

The concerts will be at First Presbyterian Church of St. Helena, 1428 Spring St., and First United Methodist Church, 625 Randolph St. in Napa.



Classic *Swan Lake* at Jarvis

The Leticia Jarvis Art Films series presents legends of dance *Swan Lake* from the Vienna State Opera in 1966 starring Rudolf Nureyev and Dame Margot Fonteyn and conducted by John Lanchbery with choreography by Nureyev. The ballet screening will be Saturday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

Swan Lake, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, was composed in 1875-1876. The scenario, initially in four acts, was fashioned from Russian folk tales and tells the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse.

Tickets are \$10 at the door

The performance has been digitally re-mastered in HD. Jarvis Conservatory is at 1711 Main St. in Napa.

Judd's Hill Winery founders' dinner

Judd's Hill's founders' dinner on Saturday, March 9 will be a benefit for the Art Finkelstein Shorashim Preschool Fund.

Enjoy an evening of food, wine and entertainment honoring Art Finkelstein and his dedication to local Jewish culture at 6 p.m. at the Napa Valley Marriott in Napa.

The evening includes a cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres and Judd's Hill wine.

A full dinner will follow, along with a performance by master magician and mentalist, Lincoln Kamm.

Attendees will be offered lots of Napa wine and local activities during the silent auction.

Buy tickets for a table of eight and receive a bottle of Judd's Hill Founder's Art Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and a free tasting for eight at Judd's Hill Winery.

Dinner attire is recommended.

Tickets are \$118 at www.cbsnapa.org or call 253-7305.

The Napa Valley Marriott is at 3425 Solano Ave. in Napa.

When it Rains, We Pour wine experience

It may not be raining, but it should be: Andaz Napa will host a wine tasting called When it Rains, We Pour with selections from 11 boutique wineries on Saturday, March 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. Guest will be able to interact with winemakers from each vineyard and have the opportunity to taste the results of their life's passion.

Following the wine tasting, Andaz Napa will offer dinner with executive chef Sarah Linkenheil at Andaz Farmer's Table for \$75 per person.

Attendees will be given the opportunity to join five winemakers for dinner and conversation, and to indulge in sampling some of their exclusive reserve collections. Dinner will begin approximately at 8 p.m.

This evening is being supported by Riedel and the Ahnfeldt, Frias Family, Galland Clark, Hiatus, Maldonado, Renteria, Reynolds Family, Robert Biale, Rubissow, Tres Sabores and Truchard vineyards.

Andaz Napa is at 1450 First St. in Napa.

Visit andaznapa.com, telephone 687-1234 x105 or email aaron.feeney@andaz.com.

Reggae at Trinity Gold Media Studios

Trinity Gold Media Studios in Napa presents a jam with three reggae bands on Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. These bands guarantee a fun evening:

- Skunk Funk Soundsystem
- Sketch Republic
- Oceans and Odysseys

Trinity Gold Media Studios is a recording studio in Napa that provides paid time allocation to local bands and musicians wanting to practice and record.

They also offer shows open to the public, usually all-ages because most of these musicians are young and starting out. The energy, vibe and enthusiasm for this place is infectious.

Last year they produced over 30 small shows, charging guests just \$10 each.

There are no seats, but plenty of room to dance. There are no drinks except bottled water, and drugs and alcohol are prohibited.

The youthful musicians and the professional staff are welcoming, informed, and make you feel like family if you come to support their ventures.

Music at these shows widely varies in theme and style, from acoustic guitar to metal to Hip Hop to Trance DJ's spinning.

If you are a musician, or you love a musician, or you just love music, check this place out. Photographers are most welcome, someone is always taking pictures and videos.

Contact event coordinator Maggie Guevara at 344-8996 to book your band to play.

Facebook (www.facebook.com/TGMstudios) is the best way to connect. Like them and you will receive invites.

Trinity Gold Media Studios is at 3149 California Blvd. Suite F in Napa near Healthquest.

Photo exhibit at Mumm Napa

Memorable moments from wilderness regions, sacred sites and diverse cultures all over the world captured by photographer Jeffrey A. Davis will be displayed in Serenity, Wonder, and Spirit, a new exhibit opening Saturday, March 9 at the Fine Art Photography Gallery at Mumm Napa winery in Rutherford.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 5, 2014.

From the awe and wonder of the Northern Lights to the quiet, raw expression of the first rays of morning light touching down on a lone iceberg, the images included in Serenity, Wonder, and Spirit share compelling stories and cherished moments from Davis' travels to Norway, Japan, Tibet, Iceland, Namibia, Tanzania, India, Myanmar, and the United States. "For me, travel is a passion and a gift," he said.

An opening night sparkling wine reception will be held Saturday, March 9 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and is open to the public. RSVP to 967-7740.

There is no charge to view the Serenity, Wonder, and Spirit exhibit. The visitor center and fine art photography gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Mumm Napa is at 8445 Silverado Trail in Rutherford.



Café Cabaret at the Opera House

Café Cabaret featuring Madeline Eastman and Randy Porter comes to the Café Theatre of the Napa Valley Opera House on Sunday, March 10, at 4 p.m.

With the intensity of a torch singer and the voice of a post-bop saxophonist, Madeline Eastman has forged a singular approach unlike any other jazz vocalist on the scene, in what the *Los Angeles Times* describes as "a consummate, inventive, endlessly entertaining artist at work...a prime example of what jazz singing in the 21st century can be."

Madeline and pianist Randy Porter perform from their new duo release, *A Quiet Thing*, exploring a delightfully diverse array of material, including haunting movie themes, unaccountably overlooked standards, and transformative interpretations.

Tickets are \$25 at www.nvoh.org.

The Napa Valley Opera House is at 1030 Main St. in downtown Napa.

Future events

Truchard winemaker dinner at Tarla

Tarla will host a winemaker dinner featuring Truchard wines on Monday, March 11

- Caramelized Maine diver sea scallop with sesame-shrimp toast, apple-parsnip puree, pickled radish, apple powder and Roussanne
- Salt-cured duck breast with duck confit-black walnut-farro stuffed pepper, Tahitian vanilla-

goat cheese foam, star anise-blueberry sauce, pickled fennel, arugula and Pinot Noir

- Fennel-bacon sausage with sweet potato-ricotta dumplings, kale chips, truffle cappuccino, grana, browned butter powder and Syrah
- Cabernet and six pepper braised beef short ribs with wild mushroom risotto, blackberry-raisin conserva, upland cress with Cabernet Sauvignon
- Candy apple-cardamom cheesecake with basil poached ruby red grapefruit, kumquat, basil gel, browned butter streusel and Botrytis Roussanne

It will start at 6:30 p.m. and cost \$75.

Reserve at 255-5599.

Hospice to host gala at Raymond Vineyards

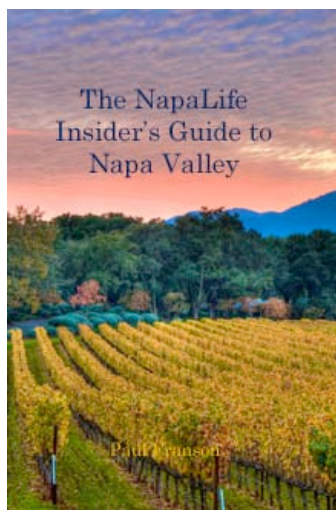
as Jean-Charles Boisset will be the honorary chair of their seventh annual Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services benefit gala on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Raymond Vineyards in St. Helena.

This year's event, Soirée dans les Jardins du Moulin Rouge (Evening in the Gardens of Moulin Rouge), will be an evening of spirit and splendor filled with delights.

Attendees will feast on the cuisine of chef Michel Cornu and the wines of Raymond Vineyards and Boisset Family Estates.

Contact development coordinator Jennifer McConnehey at 258-9080 for further information.

The *NapaLife* Insider's Guide to Napa Valley



By Paul Franson

The NapaLife Insider's Guide to Napa Valley is a guide to Napa Valley by Paul Franson, editor of *NapaLife*, the Insider's Guide to Napa Valley for those who live here – or wish they did. Franson also writes for the *Napa Valley Register*, *Napa Valley Life* and many other publications.

In the *NapaLife Insider's Guide to Napa Valley*, you'll learn the stories behind the valley and its people, and learn everything from the best views in Napa Valley to why Napa Valley is the unique place it is.

The book reflects the opinionated views of author Paul Franson, who has been writing about Napa Valley from the inside for more than 16 years.

Get more details at <http://www.napalife.com/Insider.html>. It's 6 by 9 inches, 360 pages and softbound.

You can buy it at many locations in Napa Valley. See below.

The NapaLife Insider's Guide to Napa Valley is also available from [Amazon.com's CreateSpace](http://Amazon.com) for \$24.99 or as an [Ebook \(Kindle format\)](http://Amazon.com) for \$9.99

For a [PDF version for computer viewing](http://www.napalife.com/Insider.html), see www.napalife.com/Insider.html \$9.99.

Where to buy the *NapaLife Insider's Guide to Napa Valley*

Napa

- Amelia's Gifts at Napa River Inn
- Back Room Wines
- Black Stallion Winery
- Copperfield's Books
- Fish Story
- Grand Hand Gallery
- Hagafen Cellars
- Hess Collection
- Jarvis Winery
- La Residence Inn
- Milliken Creek Inn
- Napa General Store
- Odette Winery
- Rancho Gordo
- Silverado Vineyards
- Tourist Information Center
- Trefethen Vineyard

- Trinitas Cellars Tasting Room at the Meritage hotel
- Visit Napa Valley Welcome Center
- West End Napa
- Wine Train Depot
- **Yountville**
- Brix Retail Shop
- NapaStyle
- Yountville Welcome Center
- Villagio Inn at Vintage Estate

Rutherford and Oakville

- Auberge du Soleil
- Alpha Omega Winery
- Franciscan Vineyard
- Meadowood Resort
- Mumm Napa Nichelini Winery
- Peju Provence
- Raymond Vineyard

- Robert Mondavi Winery
- Rutherford Grove Winery
- St. Supéry Vineyard
- Swanson Vineyards

St. Helena

- Charles Krug Winery
- Culinary Institute of America Spice Islands Marketplace
- Domaine Charbay
- Harvest Inn
- Markham Vineyards
- Napa Valley Olive Oil Co.
- St. Helena Visitors' Center
- V. Sattui Winery
- Sutter Home Winery

Calistoga

- Calistoga Welcome Center
- Copperfield's Books