

Visiting Raymond Vineyards

About

Where: 849 Zinfandel Lane, St. Helena

Information: 800-525-2659, raymondvineyards.com

Hours: Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special tasting programs and flights

Raymond Favorites (\$10), a flight of five Raymond reserve selections

Stellar Cabernets (\$15), a sampling of five of the winery's various Cabernet Sauvignons

Harvest White Tasting (\$10), five of the winery's white wines, mostly Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay

Crystal Cellar (\$25), taste a flight of Raymond Cabernets in the Crystal Cellar

Vertical Tasting (\$35), a taste of the most recent vintages of Generations Cabernet Sauvignon

Tours

Basic Tour and Tasting (\$20), a 45-minute tour plus either Harvest Whites, Stellar Cabs or Raymond Favorites. Available Monday-Friday at 11 a.m., Saturday-Sunday at 10 a.m.

Barrel Tasting and Tour (\$20), a one-hour tour with a barrel tasting of four future releases, along with Harvest Whites, Stellar Cabs or Raymond Favorites. Monday-Friday at 11 a.m., Saturday-Sunday at 10 a.m.

Deconstructing the Wine Experience (\$20), a one-hour tour with emphasis on the sensory, the art of wine tasting and discussion of food pairing. Saturday at noon



The Raymond Vineyards Crystal Cellar serves as a glittery entertaining space.

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in the Russian River Valley and showing off the organic and biodynamic garden, he's a man of many interests and many wine businesses.

Boisset grew up in Burgundy among the vineyards of the Cote de Nuits region and began working in the family wine business as a teen. He now leads his family's vineyard and winery interests around the world, particularly in North America, helping to turn Boisset Family Estates into France's third-largest wine company.

Now married to Gina Gallo — yes, that Gina Gallo — Boisset splits his time between the family home in Burgundy and a swank apartment in San Francisco, where he resides with Gallo and their beloved French bulldog, Frenchie.

His parents, Jean-Claude and Claudine Boisset, began building Boisset's collection of worldwide wineries in 1961. Their brands include some of the finest names in Burgundy: Domaine de la Vougeraie and Jean-Claude Boisset in Nuits Saint Georges; Jaffelin and Bouchard Aine & Fils in Beaune; J. Moreau & Fils in Chablis; and others.

Boisset is also the world's leading producer of Pinot Noir.

Over the years of exploration and acquisition, their son never forgot one place — the Napa Valley — and specifically, one family winery at which he spent time in 1981 as a boy — Raymond Vineyards.

"I fell in love," he recalls. "I said to my sister Nathalie, let's make sure one day we come back."

Part of the attraction was Raymond's own multigenerational family story. Roy Raymond first worked in the wine industry for Beringer Vineyards in St. Helena in 1933, the first crush after Prohibition's repeal. He eventually married Beringer founder Jacob Beringer's granddaughter, Martha Jane.

Raymond founded Raymond Vineyards after retiring from Beringer in 1970, about the same year Jean-Charles Boisset was born. He bought 90 acres south of St. Helena in the heart

of the Napa Valley, set back from Highway 29 along Zinfandel Lane on the way to Rutherford, and built a winery.

Releasing its first wines in 1974, Raymond was making 35,000 cases a year when Kirin Brewery in Japan bought a controlling interest in 1989. Roy's sons, Roy Jr. and Walter, continued running the operation, expanding the vineyard holdings to 310 acres. Annual production eventually topped out at 200,000 cases.

Enter Boisset, who in August 2009 bought Kirin, hired famed Napa Cabernet consultant Philippe Melka and lured in Stephanie Putnam from nearby Far Niente Winery as full-time winemaker.

Already in place were three estate vineyards — the St. Helena estate vineyard (10 acres), Rutherford estate vineyard (90 acres) and larger Jameson Canyon vineyard (210 acres). They were planted entirely to whites, all of which have gone through regrafting and replanting, as well as being moved into organic and biodynamic farming practices, something Boisset aims for with all his vineyards worldwide.

Boisset has most definitely put his personal touch around the grounds, introducing a "Theater of Nature," a self-guided walking tour through the front part of the winery property explaining Raymond's winegrowing methods.

The display and tour include some discussion of biodynamics, a method of farming more extreme than the tenets of organic farming; it is chemical-free farming but also includes practices tied to nature's cyclical rhythms, lunar cycles in particular.

"We want to show how nature affects wine and why the lunar calendar is important," said Boisset. "Through the 'Theater of Nature,' we have the opportunity to bring our guests into the natural beauty of the Napa Valley, helping them understand that we are each and all together actors on a grander stage."

Animals are also a part of biodynamic farming — sheep, chickens and cows, most notably

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The Ideal Supermarket



The Ginger Grille is G&G's state of the art in store demonstration cooking kitchen, located in the Santa Rosa, and offers a variety of classes including culinary team building, vendor cooking demonstrations, international culinary education and health and wellness.

G&G is a proud partner with Northern California Center for Well-Being, a local non-profit organization that provides health education.

Ginger Grille

DEMO KITCHEN & CLASSES

Upcoming Classes

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| May 6th | • 1:00 - 2:30 pm | • Gluten-Free Cooking |
| May 13th | • 1:00 - 2:30 pm | • Cooking for Optimal Health |
| May 17th | • 6:00 - 7:30 pm | • Cooking Well for Diabetes |
| May 20th | • 1:00 - 2:30 pm | • Infant and Toddler Food Made Easy |
| May 26th | • 6:00 - 7:30 pm | • Heart Healthy Cooking |

Check our website, gandgmarket.com, for class availability and to register.



For more information on health education please visit www.nccwb.org

Santa Rosa: 1211 W College Avenue • 707 546-6877 & Petaluma: 701 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy. • 707 765-1198