

VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 48

SEPTEMBER 2024

NUMBER 10



Upcoming VVHA Events for September

Men In The Kitchen Breakfast, Sept. 2nd

Bingo, Sept. 13

Friday Night Social, Sept. 27th

VVHA General Membership Meeting, Sept. 18

BREAKFAST



MEN IN THE KITCHEN



**Labor Day, Monday
September 2nd
\$15.00**

**In the clubhouse
9:00am to 11:00am**



Sausage Links



British Pancakes by
Mike Greensill



Eggs Over or
Scrambled



Home Potatoes

Coffee, Tea and Juice



Sign up. To pay, use the provided envelopes on the lower left holder on this bulletin board and deposit it in the VVHA box in the middle of the cubbies in the mailroom.

We will provide paper plates, utensils and cups but feel free to bring your own place setting.



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September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 MEN IN THE KITCHEN BREAKFAST 9am LABOR DAY	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 BINGO 6pm	14
15	16	17	18 VVHA GEN MEMB MEETING 3PM	19	20	21
22 FALL BEGINS	23	24	25	26	27 FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL 5:30 pm	28
29	30					

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References from park residents available

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VIVA Mission Statement: To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current & upcoming events, VVHA news, Activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley Residents.

2023-2024 VVHA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President _____ Rick Wood
Vice President _____ Janet Schmidt
Secretary _____ Mae Van Nett
Treasurer _____ Henk Brok
Directors: Eve Breckenridge, Joyce Cahill
Ines Chiarello, Janice Dugan, Inger Laidley

VVHA Clubhouse Coord. ___ Mae Van Nett
Hospitality Robin McGuire, Mae Van Nett
Memorials and VV Clubhouse
Coordinator _____ Janeen di Rienzo
Directory ___
Mailboxes/Cubbies _____
Library _____ Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood
Bocce Committee Chair _____ Bob Distad
Clubs/Activities _____ Rick Wood

Non-Social Resident-formed Groups
Community Education _____ Grace Kistner
Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Carroll Cotten

VIVA viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com

September Birthdays

- 1 Susan Ernst, Fred Knifer
- 2 Henk Brok
- 5 Mike Greensill, Patrick Mumm
- 9 Laretta Cecchino
- 13 Bob Walkup
- 14 Chris Killion
- 16 Michael Beglin, Thomas Walsh
- 18 Gerry Gallagher
- 19 K T Waxman
- 21 Dottie Gingerelli
- 23 Bob Toney
- 29 Miguel Segura

If there are any changes or additions to our list, please call Hospitality Chair Robin 303-901-4343 Mae 707-246-2631

If there is a death, call Janeen di Rienzo at 707-294-8307 so she can post it on the bulletin board and arrange for the \$50. donation to the organization you designate. She will explain how to schedule the clubhouse for a memorial

**Moving In -
Welcome to our community**

**Moving Out -
Sad to see you go**

In Memory of our friends

The Prez Sez . . . by Rick Wood

September is already here. The end of summer is near get out and enjoy the good weather while we still have it. I would like to thank those who showed up to the August board meeting. It was nice to have almost 30 people.

We start September with the Men in the Kitchen on September 2 Labor Day 9 AM to 11 AM come out and let us cook your breakfast on the menu eggs cooked to order either scrambled or over easy sausage home potatoes fruit and Mike Greensil will be cooking his famous British pancakes. all this for \$15 so if you haven't signed up, please do so today.

Bingo is set for September 16 Friday night 6 o'clock check flyer for more information and let Janet know if you would like to call bingo

Friday night social is September 27. Anyone interested in telling a short story get a hold of Michael Merriman and as always bring your beverage of choice and enjoy good company

Back by popular demand THE LOBSTER BOIL is planned for October 6th so save the date and sign up as soon as possible cost this year is \$90 includes the boil music and a silent auction

The NEW VVHA WEBSITE was the topic of August board meeting and the web manager Michael Merriman gave a presentation of how to sign in and how the website is secure. At this point the directory has not been released into the website, but we are moving forward and want those that feel they need more information to please feel free to ask the directors of the board any questions or reach out to Michael Merriman. This new website is more secure than the Gmail Google account we've been using for years- Remember as always get up and get out and be healthy.



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**VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 2024 MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm by President Rick Wood

Minutes of July 17, 2024 meeting were approved

Treasurer's report by Henk Brok: As of July 31, 2024: Checking \$8,839.11; Savings \$9,012.82; VIVA \$3,710.48; Bocce \$2,224.74; Total \$23,787.16

August Bingo attracted 51 people with lots of winners and Ines's meat sauce pasta, salad and bread – such a deal for \$15!

Upcoming September Semi-Annual Meeting is Sept 18. Please attend the meeting or be sure to sign the Voting and Proxy form that will be in your cubby by September 1st. There is a motion on the ballot to exclude the Treasurer position from the 2 year consecutive term limit. Please contact me if you have any questions.

We hope you attended the Newcomer's Potluck on Saturday August 24 and look forward to Men in the Kitchen and Bocce on Labor Day Sept 2nd. Breakfast begins at 9am and the cost is \$15. The Lobster Boil is scheduled for Sunday Oct 6. This will be a Fundraiser so if you have anything you'd like to donate to VVHA for the event, please reach out to a Board Member. The cost this year is \$90 per person.

John and Noreen posted us that the 2024 edition of the VVHA directory should be ready to go to print by the beginning of September. Per John "I recommend that all homeowners are given an opportunity to specify how much of their information (address, phone number, email address) will be included (or excluded) in the directory." I, for one, want my neighbors to know how to reach me!

Since there is some confusion regarding the VVHA website and member information sharing (NOT TRUE) please note that per HOA Laws, members can inspect the association's membership list at any time. A membership list is defined to include a member's name, property address, mailing address, and email address, but not including information for members who have opted out. Our Directory takes care of this requirement. The information is used for sending notices and disclosures to members and goes into forming a membership list.

Michael Merriman gave a detailed demonstration on how to access the VVHA website and the information contained therein. Contact him if you have any questions.

Mike Snowden shared that Park Mgmt has purchased a new table saw for the Shop. Mgmt has requested that anyone using the new equipment sign a new waiver form. Mike offered to train anyone interested on using the new saw.

Mike Snowden also mentioned the need for a motion sensor device to open the Main Clubhouse door. This request is on behalf of the mobility disadvantaged persons in the park. VVHA will bring this up to park Mgmt at our next meeting with them.

Grace Kistner invited all to an Oct 4, 5:30pm meeting in the clubhouse with members of the SH City Council. The discussion will pertain to the 3 main issues on the upcoming city ballot.

President Rick Wood adjourned the meeting at 4:05pm

Submitted by Secretary Mae VanNett

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PARK MANAGER REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024

This is a reprint of a recent memo from the managing partner to the VVHA (8/19/24).

An addendum has been inserted at the top of the memo.

- VVHA is not an HOA, there are no HOA fees collected or paid to live here, no responsibilities or specific charges related to building or property maintenance. VVHA is not subject to the rules of an HOA
- When a park is under the authority of an HOA, that means the property is run and governed by the elected board. An HOA does everything from managing the property to taking care of hiring security, gardeners, and workers, and is responsible for rules enforcement. The VVHA has none of this authority or these responsibilities.

Dear Residents,

It is with some concern that the Vineyard Valley Managing Partner provides a clarification on some recent communication from VVHA. VVHA is a social club. They appear to be doing a nice job in engaging many of you in the event calendar they have responsibility for. There have been some resident concerns communicated about the VVHA website. Management and ownership of the park is not affiliated with, connected to or in partnership with VVHA. We have no responsibility for the administration or content of their new website. We are separate entities. If a resident has a concern regarding the VVHA website they should take it up with VVHA not with Park Management.

I want to be clear that VVHA has no contract with the residents of the park. They have no responsibility in defining our Park Rules or delivering on the maintenance decisions of park amenities or park maintenance or labor in general. If you have maintenance issues, come to the office and share your concerns and Vineyard Valley will address these issues. Again, we wish VVHA all the best in their endeavors. They are not under the umbrella of management of the park. They are a social organization. Concerns about their website, privacy disclosures, permissions etc. should be clearly directed to VVHA. Enjoy the Balance of your summer!

Greg Reynolds

Managing Partner

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SEPTEMBER BINGO



Friday September 13th - 6:30pm

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FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

September 27 5:30pm

**Entertainment: Reader's
Theatre**



The Vineyard Valley Homeowners Association's Semi-Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **September 18, 2024 at 3:00 in the clubhouse.** All members are urged to attend. A quorum is needed to transact business.

ITEMS FOR VOTE ON THE AGENDA

VVHA BYLAW AMENDMENT CHANGE, ARTICLE 9, SECTION 9.02

CURRENT VVHA BYLAW

9.02 Terms. Each officer and director of this Association shall hold office for one year or until the next general election, unless he or she sooner resigns, is removed from office or is disqualified to serve. The maximum consecutive service per position shall be two (2) years.

PROPOSED VVHA BYLAW CHANGE

9.02 Terms. Each officer and director of this Association shall hold office for one year or until the next general election, unless he or she sooner resigns, is removed from office or is disqualified to serve. The maximum consecutive service per position, excluding the Treasurer position, shall be two (2) years.

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Los Californios

By Sarah Scott and Mariam Hansen

The Spanish first entered what became California in 1542. They inched their way north, claiming land for their king. The California mission chain began in San Diego in 1769 as religious, farming and military entities. Mexicans chased the Spanish out in 1821. By 1823 a string of 21 settlements was set one day's journey apart from San Diego to San Francisco. The missions maintained authority over indigenous peoples and land holdings until the 1830s. The Sonoma mission was built in 1824 and came in handy when countering Russian expansion from Fort Ross (north of Jenner on Hwy 1). The Napa Valley was one of the northernmost outposts of Mexico, a fertile buffer zone that needed some sort of protection.

The Mexican Land Grant system began to give trustworthy, loyal citizens generous pieces of land. This would deter foreigners from moving further south. Napa County was broken up into large parcels, owned by twelve men. The boundaries were honored casually and parcel maps were vague. The years from 1836 to 1849, known as the Rancho era, enjoyed an easy-going lifestyle (except for the Native Americans). The typical rancho included a large adobe home and plentiful adjacent housing for Native American and Mexican ranch help.

General Mariano Vallejo was the undisputed ruler north of San Francisco Bay. Born in Monterey, proved himself in the military and was appointed commander of the San Francisco Presidio in 1831. He was military commander and Director of Colonization of the Northern Frontier. He held the first land grant of 40,000 acres in Petaluma Valley. From his Sonoma barracks he lobbied the governors to give land to fellow soldiers and those who would sustain Mexican rule.

Dr Edward Turner Bale was an English said to be doctor serving in Monterey when he wooed and married Vallejo's niece, Maria Ignacia Soberanes. Vallejo arranged for him to receive 17, 562 acres of valley land stretching from Yountville Crossroad to Calistoga, which was named Rancho Carne Humana (human flesh--said to be a play on the native tribal name Callajomana). Bale built his mill on a year round creek in 1846 to grind wheat.

George C. Yount received a 11,887 grant in 1836, which he named Rancho Caymus after the Native American triblet there. It included present-day Yountville, Oakville and Rutherford. He was the first white settler in the area. A town known as Sebastopol was laid out on the property in 1855. However, the town was renamed Yountville in 1867 after Yount's death. Yount's will stipulated that all his land be sold after his death.

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Los Californios

By Sarah Scott and Mariam Hansen

Yount also received 4,454 acres on Howell Mountain in 1843, which he named Rancho La Jota. Yount planned to log and construct a sawmill on the mountain top land. Edwin Angwin purchased 200 acres in 1875 and established the Angwin Resort. By the 1900s Edwin owned almost 1,600 acres. The community of Angwin is named after him.

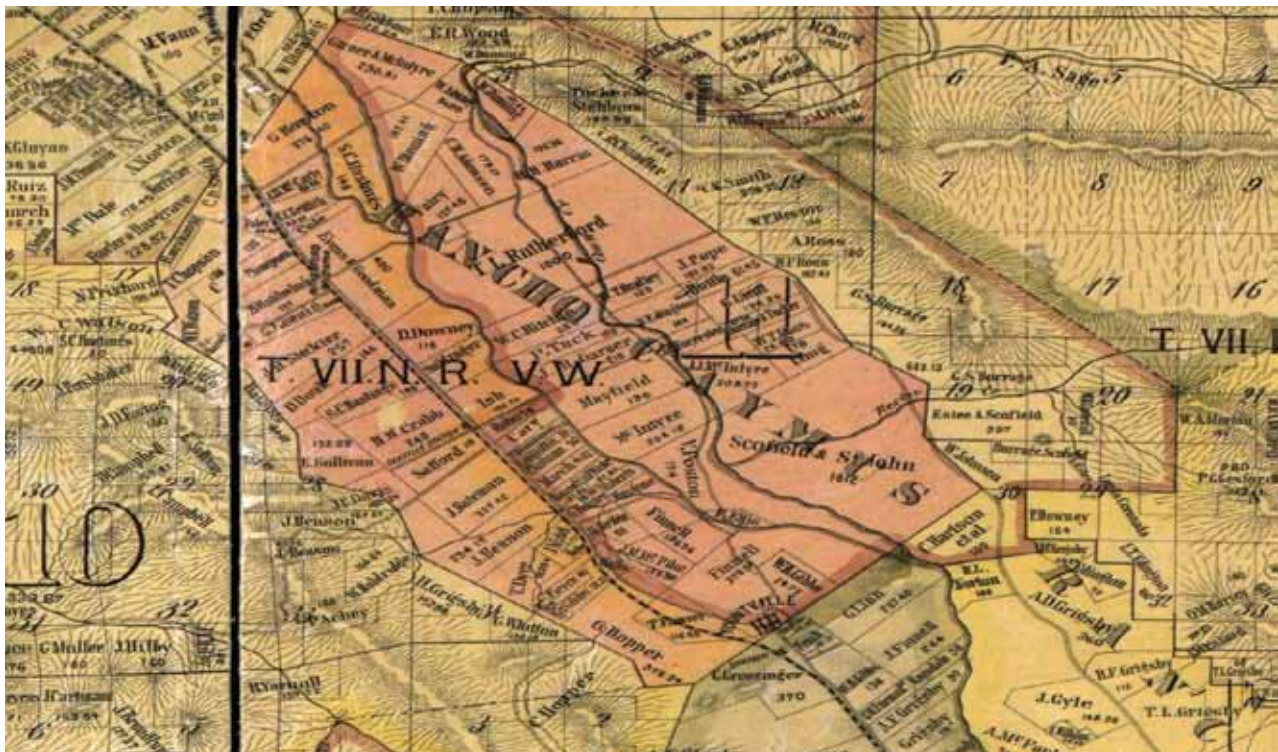
Cayetano Juarez was granted 8,865 acres in 1837. He built the first adobe in the valley, raising cattle, sheep and horses with the help of 2,000 natives. Juarez was important in settling Napa City. In 1858 he donated 48 acres for Tulocay Cemetery. His second adobe still stands today on Soscol at Silverado Trail.

Salvador Vallejo, brother of Gen Vallejo, received 22,718 acres in 1838. The grant extends along the Napa Valley, south of Yountville and north of present-day Napa. Salvador subdivided and sold much of the land in 1847 (during the Mexican-American War and before the transfer of California to the United States), retaining 3,179 acres for himself. In 1863 Salvador Vallejo was a Major in the Union Army, and after the Civil War, he resigned and returned to his ranch in Napa in 1865

Nicolas Higuerra was the grantee of 2,557 acres, named Rancho Entre Napa. Rancho Entre Napa was subdivided and much of the land was sold in 1847, Higuerra retaining 877 acres for himself. Napa City was founded on land he sold to Nathan Coombs.

José de los Santos Berreyesa got 17,742 acres in Napa and Sonoma County in 1843, naming it Rancho Mallacomes y Plano de Agua Caliente. The land was located north of Calistoga. Thomas P. Knight (1820 - 1903), a participant in the Bear Flag Revolt, bought two square leagues of the northern portion of the valley from Berryessa in 1853. In 1854 he married Serena Haines in Napa Valley, and retired to San Francisco in 1870.

José de Jesús Berreyesa and Sisto Berreyesa were grantees of 35,516 acres in 1843, naming it Rancho Las Putas. The name came from Putah Creek, which ran through the property. He moved to become the original settler of the Berryessa Valley in the 1830s. The Berreyesas forced 100 natives to help them manage their livestock—a herd which soon grew to 5,000 cattle and 20,000 horses. The brothers built adobe estate houses about a third of the way up the valley. Most of the grant was covered by Lake Berryessa in 1954.



Los Californios

By Sarah Scott and Mariam Hansen

Jose Ygnacio Mariano Berreyesa got 17,762 acres in 1846, Rancho Chimiles. He sold to William Gordon and Nathan Coombs in 1851. As required by the Land Act of 1851, a claim for Rancho Chimiles was filed with the Public Land Commission in 1852,[4] and the grant was patented to William Gordon and Nathan Coombs in 1860. This area is now called Gordon Valley in southeastern Napa County.

William (or Julien) Pope petitioned for a two square league parcel (8,000 acres) on the east side of Howell Mountain in 1843, naming it Rancho Locoallomi, now Pope Valley. The Pope family moved wagons and livestock from Yount's ranch to their adobe house. Sadly, William Pope died in an accident the same year. Mrs. Pope married Elias Barnett, a squatter on her land. The grant was patented to the heirs of William Pope (Joseph Pope, María Pope, Lucian Pope, Lucina Pope, Isabel Pope, and Delarina Pope) in 1862.

Joseph B Chiles received 8,546 acres in 1844. He named it Rancho Catacula, but we know it as Chiles Valley. In 1843, Chiles led the Walker-Chiles Party that included the two daughters of George C. Yount. In 1844, Chiles was granted the two square league Rancho Catacula. Chiles set up a grist mill and later built a distillery and began producing whiskey on a small scale. In 1848 Chiles made another overland trip to California, bringing his own family of a son and three daughters.

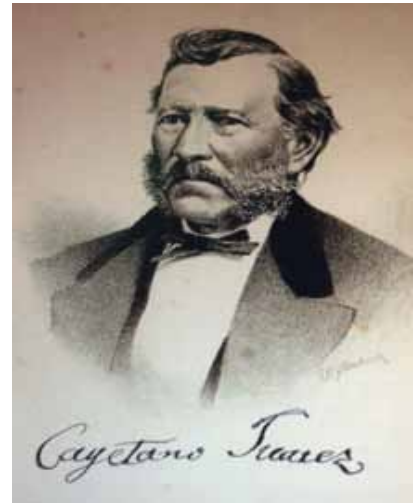
Jacob Leese married General Vallejo's sister and received 18,704 in 1841. Rancho Huichica contains the majority of the Carneros region in Napa County. In 1844 Governor Manuel Micheltorena granted Leese a three and a half leagues extension. The grant was patented to Jacob P. Leese in 1859.



JACOB LEESE



JOSE DE LOS SANTOS BERRYESSA



CAYETANO JUAREZ

General Vallejo received 84,000 in 1843, naming it Rancho Nacional Suscol. It extended from Rancho Petaluma on the west, south down to the San Francisco Bay and Mare Island and Carquinez Strait, and then to Rancho Suisun on the east. It included present day cities of Vallejo and Benicia. Cattle and horses were raised there for the Mexican army. The land claim was rejected by the US Supreme Court in 1862 on want of authority in the Mexican government to make it. Then the land immediately became public domain under the California Land Act of 1851, and available for homesteaders. Within a year more than 250 people claimed plots in accordance with federal homestead law.

This brief time in the valley's history would end soon as more Americans entered the valley. Their idea of small farms and an agricultural land base was contrary to the Mexican lifestyle. The land grants made buying land difficult. Newcomers could buy land (grantee willing), provide services in exchange for land OR they could squat on it. More land was taken by squatters. The mid 1840s was an era of growing resentment between the two cultures. The Bear Flag Revolt of 1846 brought the conflict to a head and that is the subject of the next article.

The VIVA welcomes back Suzanne James

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

By Suzanne James

After a long hiatus between introducing new and fellow residents to the Vineyard Valley community, we are back to our monthly column in the VIVA!

Our neighbor in the spotlight this month was born in Dayton, OH, the youngest of three siblings, having two older brothers (?). At age 9, the family moved to Burbank, CA. Her father taught biology and chemistry in various High Schools over the years. Her mother was a registered nurse “who loved what she did!” Our neighbor graduated from high school, followed by college where she completed a BS in Nursing in 1972, a five year degree. She then worked at a Seventh Day Adventist hospital in Glendale until 1980.

She met her husband, Ron, in a chemistry class in 1969 and married him in 1974 (more about him next month.) They had their first child, a daughter, shortly after moving to St. Helena in 1980. Their daughter specialized in Early Childhood Education and currently lives in Salt Lake City with her husband and two children. Their son, Sam, born in 1983, now lives in Oakland with his wife and two children, after completing his Masters in Engineering at Berkley.

Our neighbor and her husband built a home in Deer Park in 1982 and lived there until the Glass Fire in 2020 which consumed everything they owned, They lived with friends for a week, then a hotel for a month, followed by renting a house and furniture in Napa for 2 ½ years. When they finally received their insurance settlement, (an arduous process for over a year after the fire) they were faced with making a decision as to what to do next: Rebuild? Buy a house? They decided to return to St. Helena and recently became residents at Vineyard Valley after a resident already living here introduced them to the Park.

Music has been an important part of her life. Following a twenty five year career in Nursing she taught piano for ten years saying, “I just loved doing that!” She began taking piano lessons at 11 and started filling in at various churches for many years. She also plays the violin and mandolin. “I play the piano almost every day, music of the ‘30’s and ‘40’s –American standards. I also like the Beatles’ music and rock. My husband, who plays the guitar, and we often play together for birthday parties and other events for family and friends.”

Other hobbies include walking, time with friends, and “I love to travel!” She and her husband took a cross country road trip for over a month in the fall of 2021. They have also been to Scotland, England, Israel, Hawaii, Ireland and a cruise to Alaska. A major goal now: “to do more traveling with family and friends!”

Let us extend a warm welcome to Esther Brunswick who joined us two months ago at 14 Del Monte—a delightful addition to our community!

Referrals and volunteers for this column are encouraged and appreciated!

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THE TASTING ROOM

by Steve Kinney

Charles Krug Winery

I thought of reviewing Charles Krug as it's one of the oldest family owned and run wineries in the Napa Valley. We all have driven by this lovely property across from the Culinary Academy on Highway 29. So, it was high time to wander in and see what's new. Started in 1861 by Carles Krug, it was the biggest and most modern winery of its time.



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THE TASTING ROOM

by Steve Kinney

The Mondavi's purchased the winery and property in 1943. Cesare Mondavi and his sons ran the winery until Caesar's death in 1959. Robert and Peter with their mother Rosa took over. Peter was in charge of wine making and added many innovations such as cold stabilization and the first French Oak barrels in the valley. In 1966 Robert left after fighting with Peter over direction and finances. Peter continued to maintain a style and consistently refused to alter certain wine making techniques, such as blending. Peter worked everyday until he died at 101 in 2016. Krug has always been a significant player and force in the Napa Valley as one of the Big Four (BV, Beringer, Inglenook)

The old barrel room now serves as the tasting room since their remodel in 2013. It's a large and open room with lots of open comfortable seating. They have a salumeria at one end and a large tasting bar at the other. Two tastings are offered. The Estate Tasting at \$50 and their Cabernet Connoisseur Tasting at \$75. We opted to try both, sharing the different wines as we went. Our visit started with a glass of bubbles, their Carolina Bale Blanc de Blanc. It's named in honor of Charles Krug's wife and is produced by the winery. Light and refreshing, it was a perfect start. For the Estate Tasting, next was a Limited Release Sauvignon Blanc. Nice grapefruit and lychee flavors and full finish. Malbec followed. Very typical and quaffable. Generations Red Blend is a wine that was created by Marc unknown to his father Peter. When it was discovered, he was banned from his winemaking for a year because it was a blend. Finally, Peter Sr. admitted that this new style was delicious and worthy of their name. It was rich and full of cherry-cassis flavors. Light tannins and well structured. Lastly was the Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. This is their trademark Cabernet and is a blend of their best of all their vineyards. Bold with accessible tannins and rich fruit. Yummy!

The Cabernet Connoisseurs tasting started with two vineyard select wines from their Yountville properties just south of the Veterans Home. Slinsen Vineyard had silky fruit and tannins and berry cherry flavors. Voltz Vineyard, which is adjacent to Slinsen, is a little more tannic and rich. These were followed by Cold Springs Vineyard Cabernet. Cold Springs is located on Howell Mountain at 1650 feet. Big, rich and delicious, a great bottle of wine! This tasting finished with the Family Reserve Cabernet as well.

We opted for a charcuterie plate with our wines. For \$25 it had plenty of meat and cheese to share. They also have pizzas available, but on a limited basis (Thursday – Monday), and caviar if you're so inclined.

This historic and beautiful winery is definitely worth a visit. It's a casual atmosphere and full of memorabilia. Beautiful grounds surround the property and are a relaxing stroll. The Wine Train regularly stops at Krug and parks next to the tasting room. The folks are ushered upstairs to a special tasting and away from the sedate tasting room. Next time you're looking for a tasting, maybe even last minute, that showcases a little history, think about Charles Krug Winery. They also allow bottle purchases and to have just a glass or two.



MINNA'S MOTORCYCLE TRIP 1994

The Return Through Italy, Switzerland and Germany

By Minna Williams

After arriving back in Livorna at noon we drove along the coast and found an open shop, purchased some bread, salmis etc., and went through typical riviera towns, uncharming and 100% touristy and entered Geneva around 3-4 in the afternoon.

The following day's goal was to enter Switzerland and the Alps.

THE TRIP THROUGH SWITZERLAND JULY 1994

The trip into Switzerland started from Susa, Italy. From Susa the road leads straight into the Vanoise Massif in the French Alps. We were heading for St. Bernard's Pass and the road to it led us through one of the most spectacular drives in the French Alps.

Glaciers were visible in the distance. The steady climb of the road containing many hairpins turns gave us a view that usually only mountain climbers gain. This road is blocked by snow more than two thirds of the year, there is little traffic, and a feeling of solitude and peace was felt near the summit.

To the left of us we had in view the Grand Paradiso National Park in Italy consisting of a mass of the highest mountains in Italy such as Grand Paradiso over 13,000 feet, Grand Aig. Rousses over 12,000 feet, and other snowcapped, pointed mountains, and to the right we saw the expanse of the peaks lying within the French Vanoise National Park such as the 10,000 feet high Tignes and Bellcote mountains, also showing their white gleaming peaks in the distance.

Mount Blanc became visible. It is the highest mountain in the Alps, reaching 15,770 feet. The whole Mont Blanc massif is a vast mountain wall capped by the snowy dome of Mont Blanc.

We quickly rode through the Little St. Bernard's Pass.

The road twirled down from the pass into the old town of Aosta, beautifully situated by a river, with mellow green slopes abutting the town, impressive roman viaducts spanning the river, the last town in Italy before the ascent into the Swiss Alps.

There was only room for one vehicle on the road at a time. The big tour buses did not belong on this road, yet we saw them creep slowly and carefully up and up the winding road. After much careful checking of the road ahead we finally passed one of them. Only small cars and motorcycles should be allowed on this road. I was almost scared, but Edson was in his right element, this was his kind of road.

After winding up the mountain sides and down again we reached The Big (Grand) St. Bernard's pass. No stopping, we zoomed right through, even though hundreds of little St. Bernard dogs were sitting there - for sale -, and my eyes kind of wished for one (they are stuffed). However, Edson rarely stops for "souvenir" junk, and where to put the dog anyway? So, without hardly lowering the speed, we passed through the famous St. Bernard Pass.



MINNA'S MOTORCYCLE TRIP 1994

The Return Through Italy, Switzerland and Germany

This pass has been established since prehistoric times. It was the major pass route over the western Alps into Italy. Napoleon took his 40,000 men and 5,000 horses through it. St. Bernard founded a hospice here in the 11th century, and the St. Bernard dogs were used to find and rescue travelers marooned by snowstorms.

The pass was bleak and not breathtaking. Most car travelers drive through the tunnel, but motorcyclists drive over the pass on its narrow, twisting road.

We sat sipping cold, crisp wine and could not tear ourselves away, one glass got to be two, maybe three, I don't remember. But the view toward the towering, snow clad summit of Mont Blanc, surrounded by jagged peaks, streaked by snowy glaciers, the sun bathing everything in brightness, was mesmerizing. We were also entertained by the appearance of fast, colorful, sporty looking motorcycles converging at the split in the road right before us. One road went to the Mont Blanc tunnel. The other was the road around the tunnel and over the pass. Many motorcycles went the wrong way, and a few seconds we heard them zoom right back to the split and up the right way, you would not catch a motorcyclist dead going through a tunnel when an exciting, narrow, spiraling, windblown road would take him to the same destination. Realizing that the sun sets early in the mountains and we had still a ways to go to get to Martiny, our stop for the day, we started up again, full of sun, wine and reverence, over the beauty we had seen. I was sure that I would never again see scenery so filled with beauty as I had seen driving through the French Alps. Tired, hungry and hot we arrived in Martiny, Switzerland and decided that a nice hotel, right downtown was in order.

The town of Martiny is at the beginning of the Valoise Valley, the third largest, mainly French speaking canton in Switzerland. The Rhone River starts at the other end of this valley and then meanders through France.

We drove into the valley early in the morning sun. The road was straight and lined on the left with a low stone wall, beyond which enormous green sloping fields were covered with vineyards.

Some of the best white wines come from this region..

At Brig the road started a sharp upward climb toward higher altitudes.

To our right we had an almost Himalayan scale of mountain peaks.

Most of them are 12,000 feet or more, almost all covered with eternal snow. Narrow, winding valleys lead down to the Rhone River, glaciers gleam ice green, some snow covered. In the distance the uniquely jagged outline of Matterhorn was visible. More than 50 peaks exceeding 12,000 feet in height are crowded into this mountain range.



Edson drove close to the edge. The view down the sheer drop of the mountain sides was dizzying and breathtaking. If we fell, there was nothing to stop us for hundreds of feet. It was a sheer straight fall into the

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valley. When we finally climbed out of the Rhone valley, our last look back over the whole valley lying in the sun amidst the stunningly beautiful Alpine scenery will be forever in our memory.

We had reached the town of Gletch, which is a meeting place between the Grimsel and the Furka passes. Since we both enjoyed Sherlock Holmes' mysteries and with relish had seen the demise of the master criminal Moriarty, we kind of wanted to have a look at the waterfall where he had fallen to his death. So, we chose the Sustenpass route and detoured to the Reichenbach Falls.

It was made obvious to us why the Alps were a motorcyclist's paradise. A young man we talked to while waiting together with 60-80 other bikers at a mountain road traffic light told us that motorcycling in Switzerland was not a sport it was a sickness.

The road around the mountain range was not only steep and narrow, but it was also clinging to the sides of the rocks, looking down or up had a giddying effect. Besides being alert to the constant change from 60 miles to 5 miles speed, the rounding of the loops so that our boots almost scraped the asphalt, the whizzing by of oncoming motorcyclists,

Edson also had to waive to every one of the passing riders. About every five minutes or less, Edson's hand went up in the air to greet another biker. At the speeds we were driving, and with the closeness either to the cliff's granite sides, or to the steep abysses he certainly needed both hands if not more on the steering bars. Fortunately, some drivers had the sense - at 80 miles an hour, rounding a curve where oncoming traffic was invisible, not to waive to us.

A little mountain tram took us up to the Reichenbach Falls. The 100-year-old train gripped the tracks like glue. We went straight up; the angle was sharper than at the worst (or best roller coaster) and the thunder from the falls was frightening. We had to shout to each other, we got wet from the foam being sprayed to all sides, cliffs were springing out between the white mass of water. It was obvious that Sherlock saved his life by landing on one of these and poor Moriarty fell thousands of feet into the maelstrom we saw deep down below.

The next stop would be a pass where all the bikers in the Alps met.



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Arriving at the Sustenpass we realized that our tour book did not exaggerate the place as a motor bike meeting place. There were hundreds of bikes, parked within inches of each other on the huge parking lot bordering the ice cold, ice blue, snow-covered glacier lake abutting the road. The riders looked at the bikes, came with comments, smiled, laughed, exchanged stories about their trips, their engine problems and some just stood quietly taking in the magnificent view of the glaciers, the rough mountain sides jagged peaks towering over them.

It was now valley riding, nice and peaceful into the ancient town of Altdorf on the Vierwaldstattersee. Satisfied to the fullest we left Altdorf, and started on our way out of Switzerland. From then on it was downhill past mountains in the 6,000 foot range to Walensee and Lichtenstien with mountains in the 3,000 to 5,000 foot range.

Before we arrived in Germany, we had driven alongside but never in Liechtenstein, as far as we know. This sovereign state has an enlightened monarchy, which is popular with the country's 29,000 subjects. It is only 160 sq. miles, but still an important state in Europe and a place where people gather to engage in many winter sports.

It was noon when we reached Germany to look for lunch, a new tire, beer with the Andecks monks and lodgings for the night. It was all accomplished before we rested our weary bones in the same home, we had stayed in on the trip down through Austria Italy, Sardinia, Corsica and back up through Switzerland.

The pictures in our minds of the scenery of the Alps, the narrow winding roads, the walls of barren rocks culminating in pointed crests covered with the whitest snow, the blue green shimmering glaciers, the steep green walls shearing down to narrow valleys, pictures filled with colors and brightness will never leave us. - Minna Williams



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This event is for locals not tourists. It is not advertised and the small flyers are given out by a few of the local establishments that we frequent. Although it does not say on the flyer, there will be some world class accordian players as well as a group from the SH Community Band and more. All food and libations at this event are free and have been bought by, or donated by, generous members and businesses of the community of St. Helena.



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Duplicate Bridge Tammy McDonald
Mondays, 12:30-4:00, Rianda House

Bridge is a fun, social, and competitive card game. Bring a partner or we will help you find one. Tammy is available to discuss hands and answer questions after the game.

Gents & A Cuppa Joe Carroll Cotten
Thursdays, 8:30-9:30, Rianda House

Calling all gents! Come share a Cuppa Joe, discuss local issues, and swap stories with friends and neighbors. Fun and informative!

Jazzercise Jennifer McClester
Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30, American Legion, 1291 Madrona

Jazzercise blends dance with Pilates, Yoga, Kickboxing and Strength Training in one session. Get long, lean muscles with an undeniable mood boost!

Mah Jongg Michele Barberi Hyde
Fridays, 1:00-4:00, Rianda House

Mah Jongg is a traditional Chinese tile-based game that requires skill, strategy and a bit of luck. All levels are welcome. Mah Jongg cards available.
A beginner MahJongg class will start Friday, September 6 and run each Friday in September from 1:00 to 3:00. It takes about 4 lessons to become an expert player.
This is also a good refresher course.

Readers' Theatre Group Cheryl Fiedler
Tuesdays, 3-4:30, Rianda House

Dive into a fun and interactive community passionate about script reading and writing and in-house performing. No memorization is necessary. Fun assured!

COAD Emergency Overview Abigail Flores
Monday, September 16, 3:00-4:00pm Rianda House

Learn about the emergency alerts in Napa County with Napa Valley COAD. Together we will help you sign up for the emergency messaging you need to stay safe and healthy during an emergency. Have you experienced outages from a PSPS? Did you know you can sign up for planned power outage alerts, even if you're not the PG&E account holder? Join Napa Valley COAD to sign up and learn more about these alerts

Newcomers Social Welcomes New Neighbors



Amy Franklin



Gordon McBurney



Rita Cervone



Steve and KT Waxman

Newcomers Social Welcomes New Neighbors



Lyn and Steve Stellmah



Verne and Francine Freeman



Natalie and Ben Di maio



David and Leah Goodhart

Our Newcomers' Contact Information

Name	Address	Phone
Gillaspy, Colleen	10 Del Rio	510 334 7894
Mullin, Steve	46 Laguna Seca	510 334 9101
Stelmah, Lyn	"	
Kelly, Ginger	10 Los Robles	415 548 3165
Kelly, Mark	"	415 548 3167
DiMaio, Ben	17 Los Robles	707 637 3831
DiMaio, Natalie	"	707 637 3830
Freeman, Verne	25 Redondo	650 787 4197
Freeman, Francine	"	650 280 1712
Cervone, Rita	16 San Juan	707 363 5713
Waxman, Steve	17 San Juan	408 335 9649
Waxman, KT	"	925 413 1929
Asher, Adrienne	26 San Juan	707 738 0701
Treacy, John	"	650 224 5481
Casey, Bernice (Bernie)	10 San Lucas	415 298 4511
Michael, Jeanette	24 San Lucas	530 400 6348
McBurney, Gordon	"	531 400 6348
Franklin, Amy	26 San Lucas	916 761 1071
Goodhart, Leah	7 Del Campo	214 537 2812
Goodhart, David	"	
Harper, Jen	4 Del Monte	310 415 3861

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Community Education

A Non-Social Resident Formed Group
Headed by Grace Kistner

Will be having a political meeting in the Clubhouse on October 4th at 5:30 pm and will feature the Mayor and his opponent as well as other candidates.

In addition, there will be speakers for and against the Charter City, Transfer Tax and the Hotel on Krug

Names of the speakers will be provided before the actual event.

This will be for Vineyard Valley Residents only

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Wanted: Writers and Columnists for the Viva Newsletter

If you like to write, or have stories that you want to share, please contact Janeen at viva.vineyardvalley.gmail Your input is welcomed in our monthly newsletter.

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