

## Wine Intern Exchange

On a biannual rotation, the Sonoma-Tokaj Committee hosts viticulture students from Tokaj who work at Buena Vista Winery for 3 months during the crush. We partner with Santa Rosa Junior College to select aspiring Sonoma-based winemakers for a similar exchange program in Tokaj.

*"It was truly a life-changing experience for me. The winemakers that were part of the program could not have been more friendly and welcoming. Every person we met in the industry was truly inspirational."* **Ramsay Payton**, STSCC intern in Hungary in 2014. (Second from left in photo below)



## Cultural Exchange

Delegates from the Sister Cities committee in Sonoma and Tokaj rotate visits biannually. The most recent delegation from Tokaj included five high school students and their chaperones.



The Sonoma-Tokaj Sister Cities Committee was established in April of 2012 by local and Bay Area Hungarians under the sponsorship of Jean Charles Boisset, owner of Buena Vista Winery. The cities officially became Sister Cities when the two mayors signed an agreement on August 31, 2012 in Sonoma, California.

### The Sonoma-Tokaj Sister Cities Committee

operates under the auspices of the Sonoma Sister Cities Association (SSCA), a registered nonprofit association  
(Federal Tax ID # 68-0108056)

#### Committee Members

Sylvia Toth, Committee Co-Chair  
Joan Toth, Committee Co-Chair  
Csaba Victor Szendi, Vice Chair  
Ibolya Ligotti, Secretary  
Tom Blackwood, Treasurer  
George Webber, Public Relations  
Evie Benko Duncan  
Carole Martinson  
Clarice Stasz  
Nancy Wever  
Eva Voisin, Honorary Counsel General of Hungary in San Francisco  
Balázs Humayer, Chair, Tokaj-Sonoma Egyesület

**For more information and meeting schedules contact:**

**[Sonomatokajsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:Sonomatokajsistercities@gmail.com)**

Find us on Facebook at  
Sonoma Sister Cities -Tokaj



## Sonoma-Tokaj Sister Cities Committee



## Fostering Global Citizen Diplomacy

### Sonoma, California USA & Tokaj, Hungary

Sonoma Sister Cities Association  
Sonoma-Tokaj Committee  
PO Box 1975  
Sonoma, CA 95476 USA

## Cultural Education

The Sonoma-Tokaj Committee regularly hosts and participates in Bay Area events of Hungarian historical significance. We hosted a panel discussion commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and recently welcomed the Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. László Szabó, to Sonoma.



*With the Ambassador at Buena Vista Winery*

## Scholarship Program for Sonoma Valley High School

Each year, we contribute to a scholarship fund sponsored by the Sonoma Sister Cities Association, designed to help fund the college studies of a Sonoma Valley High School student who excels in language studies.

## Fundraising Activities

All proceeds from our fundraisers benefit our programs and showcase Tokaj as a wine region, as well as Hungary's cultural assets. We are thankful to Jean-Charles Boisset and his team at Buena Vista Winery, Obsidian Wine Co., En Garde Winery, Kohler & Frohling, Blue Danube Wines and many Sonoma Valley businesses and individual donors for their continued support.



## The Tokaj Wine Region

The town of Tokaj (pop. 5,000) is located in the historic wine region of Tokaj-Hegyalja in northeastern Hungary at the confluence of the Tisza and Bodrog Rivers. In 2002 the Tokaj wine region and cultural landscape were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The vineyards date to at least the 12th century AD.

There are many similarities between Sonoma and Tokaj, including the existence of volcanic and clay soil, and mild climate. Both are major tourist destinations. With many Hungarians living in Sonoma and the Bay Area, as well as throughout California, it is only fitting that these two wine industry towns be joined in friendship and citizen diplomacy.

## Hungary's Gift to Sonoma

Sonoma's Buena Vista Winery was founded in 1857 by Ágoston Haraszthy. He is known as the Father of California Viticulture since he was the first to bring modern European vinicultural techniques to California, and imported European vines to the region.



*Máté Kerekes - Tokaj intern at Buena Vista Winery (2013)*

## The Legendary Tokaj wine

In 1703, King Louis XIV of France, tasted Tokaji Aszú, the signature fragrant and delicious wine, and named it: "Vinum Regum, Rex Vinorum" ("The wine of kings, the king of wines"). This has been the motto of Tokaj wine ever since. In recent years, Tokaj has greatly expanded its production of other varietals. It is world-renowned for its production and global export of Hungarian oak wine barrels.



*Tokaj nestles on the Tisza and Bodrog Rivers*