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Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. *The Count of Monte Disco*. Preliminary report.

In their Pólya awarded paper of 2014, Brilleslyper and Schaubroeck characterized completely the *unimodular roots* (*i.e.*, zeros that lie on the boundary of the unit disk) of trinomials having the form  $p(z) = z^n + z^k - 1$ , where  $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$ . They then posed a challenge problem well-suited for an undergraduate research project: derive a formula that would count the number of *interior roots* (*i.e.*, zeros that lie inside the unit disk) of these trinomials. We present and prove such a formula. That the formula *counts* zeros inside the unit *disk* explains two of the three principle words of our title. To find out how *Monte* relates you must come to the talk! (Received September 16, 2016)