ABOUT
Jean-Charles Boisset



Jean-Charles in the Red Room at Raymond Vineyards

LIFE & CAREER

Jean-Charles Boisset was born into the world of wine in the village of Vougeot, Burgundy, France. His lifelong passion for wine began as a child, as he grew up above the cellars and within view of the centuries-old vineyards of Château du Clos de Vougeot, the epicenter and birthplace of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

His parents, Jean-Claude and Claudine, founded the family winery in 1961 with an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in one of the most traditional winegrowing regions in the world. Today, the family collection includes wineries that share more than 20 centuries of combined winemaking heritage and tradition in some of the world's most prestigious terroirs, from Burgundy to the South of France, to California's Napa Valley and Russian River Valley.

Jean-Charles leads the family firm with passionate commitment to fine wine, history, quality and a deep respect for the environment. He implemented organic and Biodynamic farming at all of the family's estate vineyards in Burgundy and California. Together with his sister Nathalie, he created Domaine de la Vougeraie, uniting the family's Burgundy vineyards, including prestigious monopoles such as the Vougeot 1er Cru Clos Blanc de Vougeot — planted in 1110 by the Cistercian monks, into one of Burgundy's leading domaines.

He instituted the concept of "viniculteur", redefining the company's traditional role to encompass a close and active interest in all aspects of winegrowing to ensure premium quality and sustainable farming practices. He refashioned and elevated the family's founding winery bearing his father's name — Jean-Claude Boisset — into a premier boutique vigneron in the Cotes de Nuits.

In 2003 Jean-Charles brought DeLoach Vineyards, a pioneering producer of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Zinfandel in Sonoma's Russian River Valley, into the family collection. He immediately recognized the similarities to Burgundy: each boast a confluence of river, mountains, and soil that is perfect for growing world-class Pinot Noir. He began a mission, inspired by his Burgundian heritage to produce terroir-driven wines with the same commitment to terroir and organic and Biodynamic farming he had instituted in Burgundy.

In 2009 Jean-Charles' quest for California wineries with a sense of history, heritage and a pioneering spirit led him to Raymond Vineyards in the Napa Valley, where five generations of family winemaking anchors it to the earliest days of the Napa Valley. Under his vision, Raymond has become a leading producer of luxury fine wines, implemented organic and Biodynamic farming on its 150 acre Rutherford & St. Helena estate vineyards, and become among the most dynamic winery destinations in California, earning "Winery of the Year" honors from Wine Enthusiast magazine.

In 2011, Jean-Charles' dream of championing California wine history became a reality when Buena Vista Winery, California's first premium winery founded in 1857, became a part of Boisset Collection.

Jean-Charles continued to grow the Boisset Collection with the introduction of JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset tasting salons in both Yountville and on Main Street in downtown St. Helena.



Jean-Charles Boisset for Baccarat

Jean-Charles continued his legacy of pioneering innovations in 2018 with the introduction of JCB Spirits, luxury vodkas and gin distilled from Burgundy wine made from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that includes the first-ever caviar-infused and truffle-infused vodkas.

In 2015 Jean-Charles and Raymond Vineyards partnered with Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony and Golden Globe-award winning singer, songwriter, humanitarian and philanthropist John Legend to create the LVE: Legend Vineyard Exclusive collection of wines, which number six and counting. As a world-renowned singer, songwriter and performer, John Legend's passion for inspiring memorable moments led him to become devoted to another art form, that of winemaking. The partnership has developed into a friendship, with Jean-Charles and John frequently attending each other's events, including several private concerts given by John both in Napa Valley and the Los Angeles area.

In 2019 Boisset Collection acquired Oakville Grocery, with the nearly 140-year-old flagship location in Oakville in Napa Valley (the oldest continually operating grocery in California. A Victorian house dating from 1874 also sits on the Oakville property, which Jean-Charles has turned into Oakville Wine Merchant, a lounge featuring 50 wines by the glass and 350 by the bottle, as well as the 1881 Napa Valley Wine History Museum. Visitors can enjoy wines from Napa Valley's finest producers while perusing the first-of-its-kind in Napa Valley collection of relics related to the wine trade, winemaking, viticulture and cooperage as well as many of Jean-Charles' antique decanters. In addition, guests learn about the various sub-appellations of Napa Valley through displays and by tasting wines from those varied regions.

Realizing his love affair with Rutherford, Boisset purchased Elizabeth Spencer at Rutherford Cross in December 2021.



Jean-Charles Boisset in Tequila for Casa Obsidiana

Jean-Charles has expanded from the world of wine and spirits to include a lifestyle vision; he has created namesake collections for jewelry, candles, perfume and the JCB Passion Collection by Baccarat — the first glassware line the historic French crystal company has ever done with a vintner. In addition, the JCB offerings include home accessories that exemplify the JCB world of hospitality and entertaining.

He debuted The Alchemy of the Senses, an inimitable "wine" book that speaks not only of tannins and barrels, but also emotions and fantasies, hope and imagination. Jean-Charles created the Alchemy of the Senses book as an experiential voyage through your dreams, your emotions, your senses, and your passions—all inspired by wine! The book is an opportunity to experience the limitless dimensions of wine. It was his second book, following Passion for Wine in collaboration with Marnie Old.

Boisset continued his commitment to California history with the acquisition of the Calistoga Depot, which underwent more than three years of renovation before its full grand opening in the Spring of 2024. At the same time, the Calistoga Depot Distillery unveiled a portfolio of hand-crafted spirits inspired by the legacy of the Calistoga Depot and its founder Sam Brannan. Boisset continued his creation of luxury spirits with the debut of Casa Obsidiana tequila with the Beckmann-Gonzalez family in 2024. With Casa Obsidiana, Jean-Charles sets forth a vision of the wine and luxury worlds centered on family, passion, history, innovation and a commitment to sustainability. Decanter magazine has included him on its "Power List" of the 50 most important people in the wine world each year of its publication since 2007; in March 2008, he received the Meininger's International Wine Entrepreneur of the Year; and in December 2008, he was named "Innovator of the Year" by Wine Enthusiast. In 2012, he received Wine Enthusiast's American Winery of the Year honor for his renaissance of Raymond Vineyards. The French-American Foundation awarded him their first-ever French-American Partnership Award in 2013, bestowed upon an extraordinary individual

or organization that has contributed to creating a strong and enduring French-American partnership in business, government or academia. Haute Living named him to the Haute List San Francisco, recognizing the 100 most influential people in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was honored with the 2014 Jefferson Award by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, which celebrates the museum's historical connection to wine. Also in 2014, JFK University in Concord named Jean-Charles and his wife Gina Gallo its "Entrepreneurs of the Year." In 2015 Jean-Charles was named an Honorary Co-Chair of that year's Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction, which broke all records by raising a staggering $4.5 million. In that same year, Wine Enthusiast again honored him with a Wine Star Wine & Culture Award alongside John Legend for their Legend Vineyard Exclusive (LVE) wines. In March 2017, Jean-Charles and Gina received the Mondavi Food & Wine award Robert Mondavi Wine & Food award by The Collins College of Hospitality Management in honor of their vision and leadership to advance the wine industry.

In May 2019 Jean-Charles accepted the Wine Country Business of the Year French American Business Award from the French American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco. Wine Enthusiast Magazine named Jean-Charles their Wine Star Award 2024 "Person of the Year". In 2025, Boisset was honored with the C Level Community Thought Leadership Award, a recognition bestowed upon exceptional business leaders who have made a significant impact in their industries. In 2026, Jean-Charles acquired Artesa Estate & Winery in Carneros, with Jean-Charles citing "In this gloomy wine world and all this negativity, we think the opposite. We decided to double down and acquire something very special."

