

Newport Beach

L I F E S T Y L E

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JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET CONTINUES HIS FAMILY'S LEGACY OF FINE WINES

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When Jean-Claude and Claudine Boisset embarked on a career in winemaking in the village of Vougeot in Burgundy in 1961, their first customers were friends of the family, neighbors and childhood friends. Today, the Boisset Collection has grown to be the leading wine producer in Burgundy, with a Franco-American collection of wineries on two continents and a presence in 80 countries, making it one of the world's leading family-owned luxury fine wine companies.

Jean-Charles Boisset, son of Jean-Claude and Claudine, is Boisset Collection President today and was responsible for taking the company international. He was raised in the winemaking business.

"I have been involved with wines and the wine business since birth. My bedroom was on top of the winery," Jean-Charles shares.

And, the view from his bedroom was of the centuries-old vineyards of Chateau du Clos Vougeot, the epicenter and birthplace of pinot noir and chardonnay.

"Burgundy is the father and mother of pinot noir and chardonnay," Jean-Charles says.

His memories growing up are of sunsets in the vineyards, grapes growing, harvests, and understanding what was happening in the soil.

"I remember trying chardonnay when I was four years old," he says, "and I would finish my mother's glass of pinot noir at the end of dinner when she moved with her friends to another room. At seven, I had an epiphany moment and became interested in how to make wine."

A trip to California at age 11 and a visit to the wine country would impress him so much that later on he would purchase vineyards in the area.

Today, the Boisset wine portfolio consists of more than 100 wines, with Jean-Charles Boisset owning 26 wineries, including Raymond Vineyards, Buena Vista Winery, DeLoach Vineyards, and JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset in the U.S. and Chateau de Pierreux, Louis Bernard, Domaine de la Vougeraie, J. Moreau & Fils, and Jean-Claude Boisset in France.

Since 2007, Jean-Charles has been named to *Decanter* magazine's Power List for the 50 most important people in the wine world, and *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* named him "Innovator of the Year" in 2008.

