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Napa wine mogul Jean-Charles Boisset purchases ‘splendid’ Artesa Estate, expanding North Bay winery portfolio



Artesa Estate in Napa Valley is known for pyramid-style architecture, and is the newest addition to the extensive portfolio of French vintner Jean-Charles Boisset. (Artesa Estate)

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One of Napa’s best-known French vintners has acquired one of the valley’s most architecturally unique wine estates from Spain’s oldest winemaking company, with plans to transform it into a destination for artists and wine enthusiasts seeking new experiences.

Jean-Charles Boisset, one of Napa Valley's most flamboyant hospitality moguls, announced Sept. 23 that he purchased Artesa Estate from Raventós Codorníu for an undisclosed sum. He intends to use the 350-acre property to continue making wine, while opening it to artists and art lovers — expanding his portfolio, at a time of caution and retraction in the North Bay wine industry.
The purchase total, including for the existing winery, tasting room and inventory, was not made public. Part of the estate — nearly 133 acres at 1345 Henry Road — is valued at $39.5 million for tax purposes by the Napa County Assessors Office.

Boisset said Artesa Estate suits his tastes, as it is eye-catching from the ground and air, with rolling vineyards carved into the hills and staircase-access pyramid-shaped architecture. In an interview Sept. 23 with The Press Democrat, he gushed over the land: "This splendid estate is gorgeous. We're going to push the idea of engaging people in the vineyards and in the garden, and artistically as well with sculptures and paintings and art."

He extolled the winery's "emotion and feeling" adding "We want people to come and enjoy the view and allow time to stop, to be transported into another world."



Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat
Vintner Jean-Charles Boisset and his wife, vintner Gina Gallo, hosted a Mother's Day wine tasting on Facebook Live on Sunday, May 17, 2020. (Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat)

A Burgundy native, Boisset became one of the most recognizable figures in Napa and Sonoma wine as the proprietor of Boisset Collection and the signature JCB Collection. All told, Boisset oversees more than 30 wineries and destinations in France and California, including Buena Vista Winery, Raymond Vineyards, Elizabeth Spencer Winery and the Russian River Valley's DeLoach Vineyards.

Boisset said he spent 13 years looking for a property like Artesa Estate, to offer visitors a refuge away from the world's conflicts to be in nature with art, food and wine. The estate was established in 1991 by Raventós Codorníu, which operated it as Codorníu Napa until 1997, originally to produce sparkling wine and Spanish grapes. The new owner of the 350-acre estate noted that it includes 155 planted acres in the Los Carneros and

Mt. Veeder American Viticultural Areas (AVAs), with “extraordinary potential” for producing cooler-climate variations of cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc, as well as chardonnay, pinot noir and sparkling wines.

The estate will soon host different artists with space for people to engage with different artistic works and the company’s wines and fragrance products, including candles and room and body sprays, Boisset told The Press Democrat. While the winery currently retains a chef and winemakers, he intends to revamp its food program as well.

Sergio Fuster, CEO of the Raventós Codorníu Group, said in a press release that Artesa has been one of the most successful properties in its portfolio. “We are convinced that Boisset is the ideal custodian to guide the winery through its next phase of development. Their in-depth knowledge of the local market will unlock Artesa’s extraordinary potential even further, while ensuring the continuity of its legacy.”



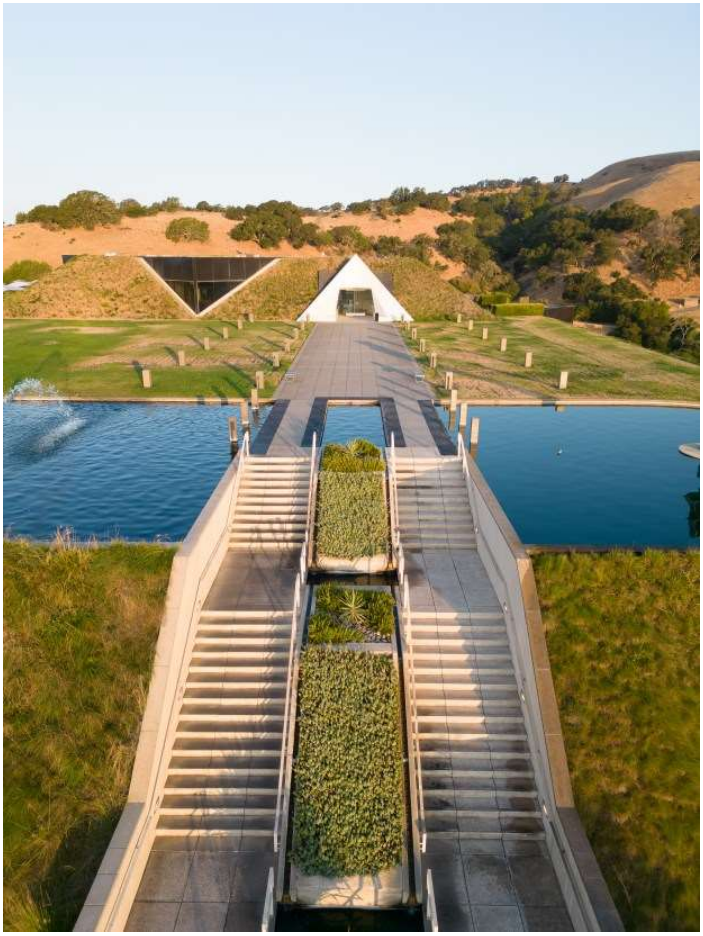
BETH SCHLANKER/ The Press Democrat
Jean-Charles Boisset at his new wine tasting room, Taste of Terroir, on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, in Healdsburg, California. (BETH SCHLANKER/ The Press Democrat)

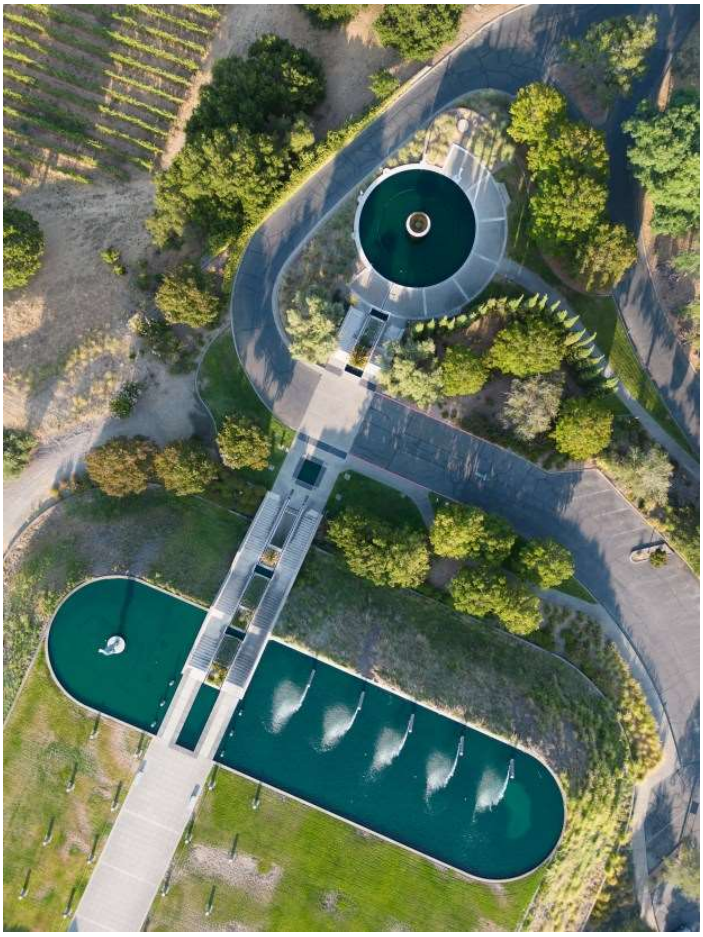
Boisset said in a press release that the acquisition reflects his “enduring confidence” in Napa Valley at a difficult time for the wine industry, as vintners for years have been facing declining demands for overflowing inventories. He said his belief in wine remains “is stronger than ever.”

“Wine carries the memory of landscapes, the intelligence of generations and the intimacy of human exchange. Its future deserves all the imagination we can bring to it.”

He said the estate’s pyramid-shaped architecture and panoramic views across vineyards and surrounding mountains toward the East Bay and San Francisco resonated with him, citing the philosophy expressed in his $395 book on wine, “The Alchemy of the Senses.” He said his plan for using the land as a gathering place for artists, as well as new wine offerings and guest experiences at the estate, will be announced later.









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“I have long been captivated by this place,” Boisset said. “I feel transported into another dimension, yet profoundly connected to the earth.”

Artesa is located nearby RuVango Winery and about 10 miles from Buena Vista Winery, which Boisset purchased and renovated in 2011.

Despite his optimism, Boisset’s company has not entirely avoided some market and financial issues.

At the end of 2025, Boisset closed the tasting rooms Chateau Buena Vista in downtown Napa and the JCB Tasting Salon in Yountville, replacing the former with a second tasting room for his Flora Springs brand that he owns with wife Gina Gallo.

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