



WINE ENTHUSIAST[®]

MAGAZINE

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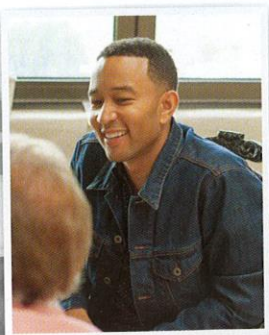
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BEHIND-THE-SCENES WITH JOHN LEGEND



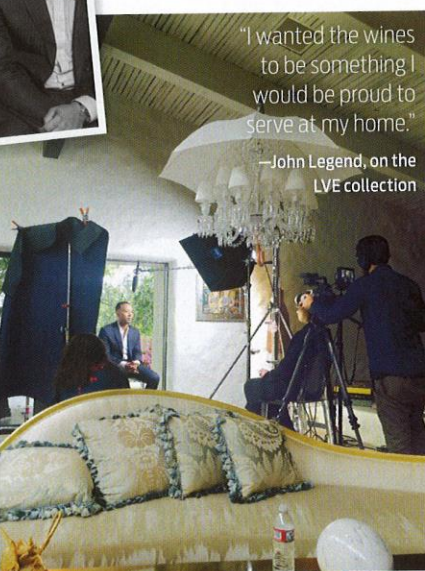
WHO Singer-Songwriter John Legend **WHERE** Napa Valley
WHAT Legend chatted with *Wine Enthusiast* TV about his love affair with wine, entertaining with his wife, model and author Chrissy Teigen, and his collaboration with Jean-Charles Boisset, owner of Boisset Collection, on their LVE wine. Watch the exclusive video at winemag.com/legendexclusive and turn to page 13 for a Q&A with the star.



(Left to right) Jean-Charles Boisset, *W.E.* Contributing California Editor Virginie Boone and *W.E.* Senior Art Director Julia Lea get schooled on how wine and romance go hand-in-hand by John Legend.

"I wanted the wines to be something I would be proud to serve at my home."

—John Legend, on the LVE collection



"I can't think of a better way to enjoy a night than to have some great music, some great food and some great wine."

—John Legend, on the perfect evening

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Our crush
THIS MONTH

JOHN LEGEND

The songwriter and performer has 10 Grammy Awards, one Golden Globe and one Academy Award. Now, he adds two wines to his achievements. >>



the crush
SIPS WITH SONGS

LVE AND LOVE

The soulful and subtle
combine harmoniously
when John Legend
creates music and wine.

John Legend is best known for the huge romantic hit, “All of Me,” inspired by his wife, model Chrissy Teigen; and the song “Glory,” written and performed with rapper Common for the movie *Selma*. He’s also a tireless musical collaborator.

In 2013, Legend took that spirit of teamwork to the world of wine, reaching out to Jean-Charles Boisset, owner of Raymond Vineyards in Napa Valley, to make a Cabernet Sauvignon. Their efforts were recognized earlier this year with the first-ever Wine and Culture Wine Star Award from *Wine Enthusiast*.

The two followed that first wine, called Legend Vineyard Exclusive, or LVE, with a 2014 Chardonnay. We talked with Legend recently in the Napa Valley about his love of wine and food, cooking with Teigen at home and with him and Boisset about their new wine venture. —Virginia Boone

When did you first start falling in love with wine?

I’ve been drinking wine for quite a long time—since I started drinking—and I’ve always loved wine, always loved the memories I’ve had with great wine, the great meals, the great experiences, the great conversations. I’ve always associated my personality, my music, with those good feelings, and I’ve always thought it would be great to develop something like this, a new wine brand that would tie all those emotions and sensibilities together.

Your wife, Chrissy Teigen, is a noted home chef and foodie, whose book, *Cravings*, just came out. What are some of your favorite dishes she makes, and do you usually pair wines with food?

She’s made some really wonderful meals for me, some of them are in the book, some of them aren’t. I’ve pretty much tasted everything in the book and some of my favorites, it’s just simple stuff like a great roasted chicken and she does some other great chicken dishes like prosciutto-wrapped Boursin-stuffed chicken, which is really wonderful, some great



hearty casseroles and pastas, I love all of that stuff. And almost all of it goes really well with wine, and I've had my Cabernet with quite a few of the recipes.

Would it be safe to say wine played a part in your seduction?

Absolutely. Wine was certainly a part of our romance and has been part of our romance ever since.

Jean-Charles, did John's level of knowledge surprise you?

JCB: I was surprised not only by his level of knowledge with wine but more importantly by his incredible, intimate creativity as far as music applied to wine as well. He has a very subtle palate with a lot of nuance and a lot of melody in it. What I felt with John was a long-term partnership commitment.

You've released two wines so far, a 2014 Chardonnay and 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon. What did you have in mind when you thought about making a wine that would bear your name?

I wanted the wines to be something I would love to drink, that I would be proud to give to my friends, proud to serve at my home and that I would enjoy myself. I developed a sense for the things I like over the years, and pretty much from the beginning I wanted to do a Chardonnay and a Cabernet. I've grown to enjoy those the most, and I felt like we could develop something I would be proud of.

We came to Raymond Vineyards and we tasted lots of things, and I started to show them the things I gravitated toward the most, the flavors, and we worked on it a lot. I came back multiple times, we spent time blending and bringing out exactly what we wanted the taste of the wines to be. We wanted it to be elegant, soulful, subtle and we wanted it to connect with the musical experiences I give people when I write songs and perform. I think we were able to do that.



"I wanted the wines to be something I would love to drink, that I would be proud to give to my friends..."
—John Legend

Watch an exclusive
behind-the-scenes video
featuring John Legend
and John Charles Boisset at
winemag.com/legendeexclusive

JCB: We tasted together numerous times...it was really important for me if anything was to be done besides friendship. We tasted Burgundy, Rhône, south of France, Bordeaux and a lot of wine in the Napa Valley. He knew exactly what he had in mind... and he was very specific in what he was enjoying already and the wines he wanted to drink.



Teigen and Legend at the Wine Enthusiast Wine Star Awards in January, 2016.