



JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET

WINNER OF WINE ENTHUSIAST'S

2024 PERSON OF THE YEAR



“

MY GOAL IN EVERYTHING I DO IS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER... WINE UNITES US!

”

Jean Charles Boisset

Boisset Estates

CALIFORNIA

JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset
Raymond Vineyards
Buena Vista Winery
DeLoach Vineyards
Elizabeth Spencer
LVE by John Legend
Wappo Hill Estate
1881 Napa
Durant & Booth
Napa Cut
Oakville Grocery

SPIRITS

JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset
Casa Obsidiana
Calistoga Depot Distillery

FRANCE

Domaine de la Vougeraie
Jean-Claude Boisset
Bouchard Aîné & Fils
J. Moreau & Fils
Labouré Roi
Louis Bouillot
Alex Gambal
Ropiteau Frères
Antonin Rodet

Nicolas Potel
Château de Pierreux
Mommessin
Domaine Maire & Fils
Bouachon
Bonpas
Gabriel Meffre
Charles de Fère
Villa Moncigale

CASA OBSIDIANA

2024 SPIRIT BRAND OF THE YEAR



Over Seven Millennia of History



BOISSETCOLLECTION.COM



JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET

PERSON OF THE YEAR

Long a diligent student of history, Jean-Charles Boisset seems destined to become a part of it in California.

When he was just 10 years old, Jean-Charles Boisset visited coastal California from his native Burgundy with his grandparents and toured the Spanish Missions from Monterey to Sonoma. The history he learned about then must have left quite an impression on him. So much so, that he seems now destined to become a part of it.

“My goal in everything I do is to bring people together to share.”

When he moved decades later to his now-adopted home in California, Boisset made a splash with the acquisitions of several historic properties, including Raymond Vineyards in Rutherford (which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024), Deloach Vineyards in Russian River Valley, Oakville Grocery and the most historic of them all: Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma, which was founded in 1840 by “Count” Agoston Haraszthy, a Hungarian who is widely credited as being the father of modern viticulture in California. Along

the way to preserving California’s history and its legacy, Boisset has ensured himself as impactful a place in it as the Count.

Jean-Charles Boisset is as well known for his dandyish flair and taste for flamboyance as he is for his longtime dedication to philanthropic causes. The Boisset Collection’s wine sales directly support Wine Unify and AAVV, Open Hearts Foundation and the United Sommeliers Foundation among many others. The company was also an early proponent of lightweight bottles to reduce carbon emissions—a goal it continues to pursue with the debut of a new design later this year. Despite these very serious intentions, he’s a consummate showman, a self-styled wine Walt Disney who knows the surest way to effect change is to engage people through entertainment.

“My goal in everything I do is to bring people together to share,” he says. “I see the winery as a place that is not just to talk about the vineyard or what we do and to get club members to join the winery—I want it to be a place where people have fun, enjoy each other and meet others.”

One of Boisset’s recent endeavors is the opening of the



Kitchen Memories Collection, a museum of culinary artifacts dating back from the Mid-Century to the 1800s, in the historic 1872 brick post office that houses Elizabeth Spencer’s tasting room. When we reached Boisset to talk about his Person of the Year recognition, he had just finished an event in the space and spoke with paraphernalia representing more than a century’s worth of cookware adorning the exposed brick behind him. The venue now hosts exhibits, cooking demonstrations and, because we are talking about Jean-Charles Boisset, of course parties.

This multidimensional experience joins Raymond’s Red Room, a velvet-drenched neo-

speakeasy at the Rutherford winery, which also boasts a “Theater of Nature” that educates about the biodynamic transformation of that property as well as a “dog winery” for people’s pets—and in Sonoma, the Bubble Room sparkling wine lounge at Buena Vista, the tasting room of which has featured live strutting peacocks, among many other unorthodox ways of getting people involved and interacting with wine, viticulture, their senses and history. These are just a drop in the bucket of his mission, though.

When asked what he’d still like to accomplish after having already done so much, Boisset—ever indefatigable—says, “I feel like I’ve barely started.” —*John Capone*

COURTESY OF BOISSET COLLECTION



THE 25TH ANNUAL

WINE STAR AWARD WINNERS

Honoring luminaries of the beverage alcohol industry.
Winners will be honored at our annual awards gala.



Person of the Year
JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET
President, Boisset Collection



Lifetime Achievement Award
SANDRO BOSCAINI
President, MASI

For gala inquiries, please contact LaShana Daniels at ldaniels@wineenthusiast.com



American Wine Legend
TOM KLEIN
Proprietor, Rodney Strong Wine Estates



Wine Executive of the Year
JEN LOCKE
CEO, Crimson Wine Group



Innovator of the Year
VIARAE PROSECCO



Social Visionary of the Year
**UNITED SOMMELIERS
FOUNDATION**



Winemaker of the Year
ERIC AAFEDT
Vice President of Winemaking,
Bogle Family Wine Collection



American Winery of the Year
LA CREMA WINERY



European Winery of the Year
BARTON & GUESTIER



New World Winery of the Year
VENTISQUERO WINE ESTATES



American Wine Region
of the Year
MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA



International (Non-U.S.) Wine
Region of the Year
FRANCIACORTA, ITALY



Importer of the Year
VINO DEL SOL



Sommelier/Wine Director
of the Year
AMY RACINE
Beverage Director & Partner,
John Fraser Restaurants



Spirit Brand of the Year
MELETTI

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

The Westin St. Francis on Union Square
335 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Individual Tickets | \$1,995 |
| Table of 10 | \$18,685 |
| Table of 12 | \$21,685 |

Photo credit: Boisset Collection, Jacopo Salvi, William Pruyn, Bob McClenahan for Pine Ridge Vineyards, Viarae Prosecco, United Sommeliers Foundation, Seamless Content Co. Justin Witt, La Crema Winery, Barton & Guestier, Ventisquero Wine Estates, Mendocino County, Consorzio Franciacorta, Vino del Sol, Amy Racine, Meletti

Scotch

95 ARDRAY BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY (SCOTLAND; BEAM SUNTORY, CHICAGO, IL).

Intended to combine the best of Scotland and Japan's whisky traditions, this blend of Scotch malt and grain whiskies opens with campfire smoke, dark chocolate and charred oak. The long and warming finish suggests dark-chocolate-covered ginger sprinkled with piquant black and red pepper.

abv: 48%

Price: \$85/700 ml

95 COMPASS BOX CRIMSON CASKS BLENDED MALT SCOTCH WHISKY (SCOTLAND; MHW, NEW YORK, NY).

Mesquite and peat smoke surround a core of succulent figs and dates drizzled with maple. Finishes long and lip-smacking with leather, espresso, cranberry, cocoa nibs and black pepper piquancy. This nut-brown Scotch is matured in Oloroso Sherry oak butts.

abv: 46%

Price: \$75



94 THE SASSENACH BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY (SCOTLAND; SASSENACH SPIRITS, MANHASSET, NY).

Baked pear and peat smoke mingle in this burnished-gold Scotch from *Outlander* actor Sam Heughan. Toasted almond, toasted coconut and honeycomb lead to a mellow exit accented with sea salt and smoke. Limited batch release.

abv: 46%

Price: \$119

Tequila

95 CASA OBSIDIANA TEQUILA REPOSADO (MEXICO; MEXICOR IMPORTERS, HOUSTON, TX).

It's impossible to ignore the sculptural, sea-green ceramic bottle, with a vaguely humanoid shape that requires beheading to pour the golden and bright liquid. That accomplished, the complex aroma suggests bell pepper, agave and a hint of vanilla. The bracing palate opens with graphite, menthol, black pepper tingle and a hint of peat-like smoke, smoothed with toasted almond and finishing long. Finished four months in French oak barrels that once held Napa Valley Chardonnay.

abv: 40%

Price: \$250



95 MAYENDA TEQUILA REPOSADO DOUBLE CASK (MEXICO; IMAGE LAND, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY).

This pale gold tequila is bright, with a mild aroma and coconut hint. The light, complex palate shows oak and delicate touches of incense and cinnamon, finishing long and drying with faint almond and a white floral waft. Rested for six months.

abv: 40%

Price: \$75



94 ALMA DEL JAGUAR REPOSADO TEQUILA (MEXICO; MORNINGSIDE BRANDS, MEMPHIS, TN).

With a golden hue and mild almond aroma, this soft, silky repo suggests flavors of buttered brioche sprinkled with sea salt, leading into a lip-smacking butterscotch hint on the exit shored up with gingery snap. Donates to and fundraises for organizations that protect wild jaguars in Mexico and the U.S. Additive free.

abv: 40%

Price: \$60



94 LAGRIMAS DEL VALLE REPOSADO TEQUILA (MEXICO; ALTIMAR BRANDS, CORONA DEL MAR, CA).

Look for a pale straw hue and lively aroma featuring jalapeño and dried oregano. The lean and spicy palate opens with lots of fresh and pickled jalapeño flavors. Lemon peel acidity makes the mouth water, winding into a big, bold, citrusy and peppery finish, with a feather-light herbaceous accent. Palo Verde Rancho Unico 2022. Name means "tears of the valley."

abv: 46%

Price: \$70

94 MIJENTA TEQUILA REPOSADO (MEXICO; ALTOS PLANOS, DALLAS, TX).

Pineapple and coconut aromas lead into a silky palate that echoes those tropical notes. Distinct salinity carries through to the mellow finish framed by ginger and a puff of smoke. A margarita with a salted rim would nicely accent the saline hint.

abv: 40%

Price: \$70



American Single Malt Whiskey

97 QUINTESSENTIAL PORTSIDE AMERICAN SINGLE MALT WHISKEY (USA; CEDAR RIDGE DISTILLERY, SWISHER, IA).

With a distinctly nutty aroma, this silky single malt opens with concentrated pecan pie and maple, evolving into dried dates and figs. It finishes with hints of orange peel and cinnamon tingle. Would be a dynamite dessert pairing. Aged in ex-bourbon casks for six years and finished in casks that previously held ruby port and amontillado Sherry, as well as virgin French oak casks. Limited edition.

abv: 58.6%

Price: \$100



96 LOST LANTERN BALCONES DISTILLING TEXAS SINGLE MALT WHISKEY (USA; BALCONES DISTILLING, WACO, TX).

Look for a deep ruddy hue and nuanced toffee and red fruit aromas. Add plenty of water and/or ice to rein in the heat on this overproof whiskey that shows vanilla and caramel framed by a complex kaleidoscope of allspice, clove, espresso and hints of sarsaparilla and cayenne. Made with 100% Golden Promise malted barley distilled by Balcones and selected by independent bottler Lost Lantern.

abv: 60.2%

Price: \$100

96 WESTWARD AMERICAN SINGLE MALT CASK STRENGTH (USA; WESTWARD WHISKEY, PORTLAND, OR).

This is remarkably soft and sweet for a cask-strength whiskey. Just a splash of water enhances the toffee aroma and creamy butterscotch and spice flavors, layered with hints of orange peel and hops. Clove, cinnamon and ginger create a warming fade.

abv: 62.5%

Price: \$90

96 VIRGINIA DISTILLERY AMERICAN SINGLE MALT PORT CASK RESERVE (USA; VIRGINIA DISTILLERY, LOVINGSTON, VA).

Aged in tawny port casks and port-style wine casks sourced in Virginia, this deep-amber whiskey opens with tart dried cherry and cranberry, leading into cocoa, toffee and a welcome bitter-espresso hint. Cinnamon and clove warm the finish.

abv: 46.5%

Price: \$45/700 ml



96 WOLVES 11 YEAR OLD CALIFORNIA SINGLE MALT WHISKEY (USA; WOLVES, UKIAH, CA).

Smooth and complex, this is a beer-lover's single malt. Hoppy, beer-like flavors meld with mouthwatering hints of red fruit and plum skin. Mocha flows into the long finish enlivened by lemon peel and ginger. Aged 11 years, blended from nine barrels.

abv: 55%

Price: \$305

94 THE FIRST MILLIONAIRE SACRAMENTO SINGLE MALT BARLEY WHISKY (USA; CALISTOGA DEPOT DISTILLERY, ROHNERT PARK, CA).

Aged in charred wine casks, this opens drying and brisk, with hints of leather, oak, orange oil and espresso. This leads into an expansive, rich finish that seems to bloom and coat the palate. Adding water brings out a richer, more oily feel, and amps up vanilla and creamy caramel that linger into the exhale.

abv: 46.5%

Price: \$125



94 MCCARTHY'S OREGON SINGLE MALT WHISKEY (USA; CLEAR CREEK DISTILLERY, HOOD RIVER, OR).

From the pioneering distillery that was the first to make American single malt, this bottling features peated barley from Scotland that's distilled in Oregon and aged three years in Oregon oak. The result is a light-gold liquid with a smoky scent and iodine whiff that's reminiscent of peated Scotch. The palate opens gently with swirls of peat around a core of fresh pear, finishing long with smoke and fresh-cracked black peppercorn, tapering off to gentle vanilla.

abv: 42.5%

Price: \$65

93 NEW RIFF SOUR MASH SINGLE MALT (USA; NEW RIFF DISTILLING, NEWPORT, KY).

Made with at least 11 different malted barley varieties and aged at least seven years, this whiskey has a deep amber hue and bold oak and baking spice aromas. First sips reflect cocoa and dried cherry, plus a distinctly hoppy midpalate. The drying finish includes leather, nutmeg and clove.

abv: 56.9%

Price: \$70

aromatic profile. The palate mirrors these vibrant notes with laser-like precision and brightness. It's drinking superbly now but has the potential to age gracefully. A stellar example of the grape. Drink now–2040. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

95 Kuenhof 2023 Kaiton Riesling (Alto Adige). This Riesling bursts with vibrant, elegant aromas of white peach and jasmine that practically dance from the glass. On the palate, it's a refreshing explosion of zesty lime, crisp green apple and a touch of slate. Light yet packed with flavor, its mineral edge and juicy finish make it a thrilling wine that will make naysayers rethink their attitude about Riesling. Drink now–2040. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

94 Ansitz Waldgries 2021 Itos Riserva Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Heady and forward, this wine bursts with aromas of grilled pineapple, candied mango and pickled lemon peel. Rich and full bodied, it retains a vibrant citrus note that keeps the finish tart and refreshing. This is a big, bold wine that's supertasty and delivers a memorable punch of flavor. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

94 Cantina Terlano 2022 Quarz Sauvignon Blanc (Alto Adige). This vintage showcases a broad and lush profile, with a delightful interplay of rich, creamy citrus fruits and vibrant tartness. The nose is inviting, offering a harmonious blend of ripe citrus notes, complemented by fresh mint and basil accents. On the palate, the wine's ample texture is balanced by a lively acidity, creating a delightful tension that keeps the flavors focused and energetic. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$90

94 Cantina Terlano 2021 Nova Domus Terlaner Cuvée Riserva (Alto Adige). An irresistible wine, this gem captivates with mind-bending aromas of kiwi, ripe peach, Fuji apples and intoxicating white flowers. Alpine herbs and crushed stone elevate the experience. Tart citrus and dried mandarin orange wheels lead to fresh and preserved apricots on the palate, culminating in a rounded, textured finish. A true delight not to be missed. Drink now–2045. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$78

94 Cantina Tramin 2016 Epokale Spätlese Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige). Yellow gold in the glass, this wine opens with a lush note of caramel popcorn and pressed roses, balanced beautifully by roasted peach and dried apricot. The fruit shines through brightly, while zippy acidity keeps it lively. As you sip, spices subtly build, like an offshore wave that suddenly booms with intensity. This is a wine that promises even more with time. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$190

94 Colterenzio 2022 Berg Riserva Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Imagine standing by a rocky stream, the scent of wet stone and gravel mixing with wildflowers and a hint of herbs. This wine captures that essence, with juicy yellow plum, peach and tart apricot flavors dancing on your palate. Rich and mouthfilling, it carries a weight that's both heady and balanced. Drink now–2040. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$39

94 Elena Walch 2022 Kristallberg Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Mineral aromas lift out of the glass first with notes of flint and smoke that give way to pure aromas of white peach and lemon blossom as the moon yields to the sun. As you sip, flavors of apricot unfold from tart skin to lush flesh, mingling with candied pear and preserved lemon peel. With a salty finish and layers of depth, this wine offers an immersive journey that promises to age beautifully. Drink now–2040. Wilson and Daniels LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$44

94 Falkenstein 2022 Valle Venosta Riesling (Alto Adige). Aromas of petrol, quince and candied lime interlace with soft white flowers, creating an enticing bouquet. The palate is brimming with zippy acidity and vibrant stone minerality, complemented by a delightful mix of candied fruits.

With its layered complexity and refreshing finish, this wine promises excellent aging potential and an engaging drinking experience. Wines Unlimited. *Hidden Gem*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

94 Gump Hof Markus Prackwieser 2023 Medaevum Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Pressed flowers and cut Fuji apples greet the nose, with a whisper of mineral notes wafting from the glass. The wine offers mixed orchard fruit flavors on the palate, highlighted by a hint of lemon oil that perks up the senses. The finish lingers with a touch of green almond and a defined gravelly note, leaving a tactile impression that resonates. Drink now–2035. Vinity Wine Company. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

94 Gump Hof Markus Prackwieser 2022 Praesulis Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). This vibrant and taut wine entices with aromas of Haribo peach candy, complemented by hints of citrus zest and white flowers. It delivers a lively burst of ripe peach, lemon and gravel-like flavors, with a zippy energy that keeps it fresh and engaging. The texture is finely woven, creating an elegant balance that lingers with vibrancy through the entire bottle. Vinity Wine Company. *Hidden Gem*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

CASA OBSIDIANA
JALISCO ••• MEXICO

SPIRIT BRAND OF THE YEAR 2024 NOMINEE
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