



**Gina Gallo and Jean-Charles Boisset Honored with  
The Robert Mondavi Wine & Food Award  
By The Collins College of Hospitality Management**

**Napa, CA** (Feb. 22, 2017) – Gina Gallo, Senior Director of Winemaking of the Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery, and her husband Jean-Charles Boisset, Proprietor of the Boisset Collection, will be awarded the Robert Mondavi Wine & Food award by The Collins College of Hospitality Management for their contributions to the wine world and hospitality industry. The couple will be honored at *Hospitality Uncorked* on Saturday, March 4th at the JW Marriott L.A. LIVE in downtown Los Angeles.

The gala event is breaking from tradition by honoring not one, but two individuals who together are making an indelible mark on the hospitality industry and the wine world. The award, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, is given with great appreciation to individuals whose vision and leadership have advanced the wine and food industry. The Collins College's Robert Mondavi Wine & Food Award has paid tribute to some of the industry's most accomplished men and women, beginning with its first honoree in 1999, for whom the award was named. It honors individuals whose vision and leadership have advanced the hospitality industry, and who have demonstrated a dynamic influence on the restaurant industry while changing the world through the power of food. Proceeds of the event support The Collins College, one of the premier hospitality colleges in the world. Over the past four years, this iconic evening has raised more than \$500,000 annually for the college.

Gina Gallo's journey as a winemaker began when she was just 10 years old, tending the gardens with her father and grandfather and picking fruits and vegetables that her mother and grandmother would use for fresh, seasonal family meals. Gina spent her high school summers working at the Gallo family's winery, later earning her bachelor's degree from Notre Dame de Namur University. Following in her grandfather's footsteps, she found her true calling as a winemaker. In 1990, she became an apprentice winemaker at the Gallo family's experimental micro-winery in Modesto, CA while she also studied winemaking at the University of California at Davis. Gina is a board member of the American Farmland Trust, which works to preserve agricultural land, and Taste of the NFL, which raises funds and awareness for food banks and anti-hunger initiatives. Gina has also been honored with several awards and accolades. She was a 2016 inductee to the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America. Additionally, she was named one of the Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink by *Fortune* magazine, as well as being named #17 on *Decanter* magazine's "Power List" of the most important men and women in wine. Gina also received an honorary Doctorate in Oenology from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI in 2008.

Jean-Charles Boisset was born into the world of wine in the village of Vougeot in Burgundy, France within view of centuries-old vineyards. As proprietor of Boisset Collection, Jean-Charles continues the entrepreneurial spirit of his parents who founded the company in 1961. He has implemented organic and Biodynamic® farming at all of the family's estate vineyards in Burgundy and California and instituted the concept of "viniculture" — 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. His has re-invigorated the California wineries in the family collection, breathing new life into DeLoach Vineyards in the Russian River Valley, Raymond Vineyards in the Napa Valley and most recently, into Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma Valley, which was California's first premium winery. In addition, he established and expanded his namesake JCB Collection, which has locations in San Francisco, Yountville, St. Helena, the Russian River Valley and Vougeot, France. His leadership at each property has garnered numerous

awards for the quality of winemaking, historical preservation and innovative, educational guest experiences. Gina and Jean-Charles wed in 2009.

Hospitality Uncorked has a theme of *Magie des Rêves*, or Magic of Dreams, and will feature masked mystery and whimsical imagery with guest chefs, vintners, entertainment, live and silent auctions and a dance party. Proceeds from the gala benefit The Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona, one of the premiere hospitality colleges in the world. The main event of the evening is the award, which was named in honor of Margrit and Robert Mondavi after they were honored in 1999 by the college for their vision and leadership in the American wine industry. Since 2000, the college has bestowed this honor upon luminaries such as Julia Child, Alice Waters, Jim Collins and Sam Nazarian.

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### **About E. & J. Gallo Winery**

Founded by brothers Ernest and Julio Gallo in 1933 in Modesto, California, E. & J. Gallo Winery is the world's largest family-owned winery and the acclaimed producer of award-winning wines and spirits featured in more than 90 countries around the globe. A pioneer in the art of grape growing, winemaking, sustainable practices, marketing and worldwide distribution, Gallo crafts and imports wines and spirits to suit a diverse range of tastes and occasions, from everyday offerings to boutique, luxury bottlings.

The Gallo portfolio is comprised of more than 80 unique brands, including Barefoot Cellars, Dark Horse, and Gallo Family Vineyards, as well as premium box wines The Naked Grape and Vin Vault. Premium offerings include Apothic, Carnivor, Columbia Winery, Ecco Domani, Edna Valley Vineyard, J Vineyards & Winery, Louis M. Martini, MacMurray Estate Vineyards, Mirassou, Orin Swift, Souverain, Talbott Vineyards, and William Hill Estate, along with highly acclaimed imports, such as Alamos, Brancaia, La Marca, Las Rocas, Martín Códax, Whitehaven, and LUX Wines, importers of Allegrini, Pieropan and Renato Ratti. Gallo Spirits offers New Amsterdam Vodka and Gin and E&J Brandy, in addition to imported Scotch whiskies from Whyte & Mackay, including The Dalmore, Jura Single Malt and John Barr Blended.

### **About Boisset Collection**

Boisset is a family-owned collection of historic and unique wineries bound together by a common cause: authentic, terroir-driven wines in harmony with their history, their future and the land and people essential to their existence. With more than twenty historical and prestigious wineries in the world's preeminent terroirs, including the Côte d'Or, Beaujolais, Rhône Valley, California's Russian River Valley and the Napa Valley, each house retains its unique history, identity and style, and all are united in the pursuit of fine wines expressive of their terroir. To learn more about the Boisset Collection, please visit [www.boissetcollection.com](http://www.boissetcollection.com).

### **About the Collins College of Hospitality Management**

The Collins College of Hospitality Management has the fourth largest hospitality and tourism management undergraduate degree program in the country with over 1,350 students, educated by a team of internationally recognized faculty. Its Master of Science degree program is ranked as one of the nation's top 10 hospitality and tourism graduate programs and is the only one in the state of California. The college is dedicated to advancing the field of hospitality management through its collaborative learn-by-doing approach, its profound appreciation of diverse backgrounds, ideas and cultures and its strategic integration of scholarship, service and applied learning. The Collins College is a preeminent and global source of future leaders in the growing hospitality and tourism management industry.

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