

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **RAYMOND VINEYARDS AWARDED *WINE ENTHUSIAST'S* 2012 AMERICAN WINERY OF THE YEAR**

**St. Helena, CA (January 29, 2013)** – *Wine Enthusiast* magazine has selected Raymond Vineyards as its 2012 American Winery of the Year noting that the “Napa Valley icon has been completely remade by Frenchman, Jean-Charles Boisset.” Boisset was previously awarded a Wine Star Award by *Wine Enthusiast* for Innovator of the Year in 2008.

Raymond Vineyards’ success has been attributed to a complete transformation of this historic Napa Valley winery. This includes innovative renovations such as the Theater of Nature, a two-acre interactive experience educating visitors on the importance of sustainable, organic and Biodynamic® farming; the Crystal Cellar, a working cellar and beautifully-stunning tasting room featuring a selection of Raymond’s District Collection and Generations Cabernet Sauvignon served from Baccarat crystal; The Red Room, a private and luxurious, members-only club; and Frenchie Winery, the first tasting room of its kind designed specifically for dogs.

Other transformations to Raymond Vineyards include the Rutherford Room, an exploration of the diverse and exceptional *terroir* of the Napa Valley; the Library Room, an intimate private room filled with a deep library of wines beginning with the winery’s first vintage, 1974; the Barrel Room, where guests have the opportunity to taste Cabernet Sauvignon destined to become Raymond’s iconic Generations or a District Collection Cabernet Sauvignon; and Winemaker for a Day, a one-of-a-kind experience where guests blend Bordeaux varietals to create their ideal Napa wine and custom label.

“We want to inspire our guests’ passion for wine,” says Boisset. “Growing from our commitment to exceptional wines, we have created an environment of exploration, education, creativity, and dynamism, where our guests discover our commitment to fine wines while enjoying a succession of transformative experiences unique in the wine world.”

The introduction of Stephanie Putnam as director of winemaking, Philippe Melka as consultant for Raymond’s Generations and District Cabernets, and Eric Pooler in the vineyards managing the transition to organic and Biodynamic farming practices, were also recognized as integral components to the success of the winery. Putnam’s focus on small-lot winemaking and extended macerations are credited with the winery’s garnering 94 points for the 2008 vintages of Generations and Oakville District Cabernet Sauvignon. Other 90+ point ratings include: 2007 Generations (92), 2008 St. Helena District Cabernet Sauvignon (91), and 2010 Napa Reserve Selection Sauvignon Blanc (90).

Winners were honored at the Wine Star Awards Dinner on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> in New York City. View Raymond Vineyards' *Wine Enthusiast* Winery of the Year Wine Star Award video here: <http://youtu.be/bXHEmgOZa9E>.

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### **About Raymond Vineyards**

Since its first harvest in 1974, Raymond Vineyards has been a Napa Valley institution. Building on five generations of the Raymond family's viticultural and winemaking expertise, Raymond cultivates over 300 acres of estate vineyards in the Napa Valley. The wines are powerful yet elegant in style, reflecting a sense of place and terroir. Most known for its signature Cabernet Sauvignons, Raymond also produces Merlot, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc along with its Small Lot Collection wines available exclusively at the winery. One of Napa's pioneering wine estates is now one of the wine world's most dynamic destinations under the vision of Proprietor Jean-Charles Boisset. Blending phenomenal wines with guest experiences that unite education, passion and entertainment, the winery offers diverse opportunities to explore wine, leading it to be named *Sunset's* "Best Tasting Room – Experience Beyond Tasting" in 2011, and now, 2012 American Winery of the Year by *Wine Enthusiast*. To learn more, please visit [www.raymondvineyards.com](http://www.raymondvineyards.com).

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