THE TASTING PANEL

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UPFRONT

Jean-Charles Boisset: Franco-American

The Burgundian-Californian Wine Entrepreneur's Portfolio Grows—Responsibly

Jean-Charles Boisset, photographed at Baccarat's flagship boutique on Madison Avenue in New York City.

PHOTO: ALLISON LEVINE

Up Front With Jean-Charles Boisset

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home,
fornia.

years of traveling in America for
s, Boisset settled in California.
Burgundy never got it. They always
ornia—what's there?" Boisset says.
ck a bottle of DeLoach, and they

acquired DeLoach Vineyards
steadily grew the family's
folios over the years, culmi-
se of Raymond Vineyards in
med or imported include
, Antonin Rodet, Ropiteau,
eau & Fils, Mommessin,
, French Rabbit, Jean-
a Vougeraie. Boisset sells

ro-American focus,"
olais, Rhône;

le. Boisset has
, for which Jean-
director." Not
to match a style,

the environmental
ure parts," he
was focusing on
thousand
s sustain-
er towers,

70% of
s, foil,

Tetra Pak
results.
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er had
ations
We have over 900
board, we're going to
on the next three months that are
last enough."

With business reaching 700,000 cases of wine sold in the United States, Boisset Family Estates isn't merely strolling to the bank: Boisset's recent Fight Against Hunger campaign has resulted in donations to food banks across the country of more than 1.2 million meals. In 2011, it aspires to donate at least three million meals.

In Sonoma, Jean-Charles met and married a local girl. His wife, Gina Gallo, who also is in the wine business, is expecting the sixth-generation Boissets— twins—in June. One would have to say Jean-Charles's move to California has been extremely fruitful.

Emily Steers contributed to this article.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GLAVE

The New Label: JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset

Creamy, toasty and smooth, the **JCB 2009 Chardonnay No. 81, Sonoma County** ($25) shows clean, fresh vanilla notes and soft, palatable fruit. Balanced, lush and ripe, it delivers a long and stylish finish. The **JCB 2008 Chardonnay No. 76, Mendocino Ridge** ($30) is bright and clean with racy acidity and silky texture ripe and structured with complexity and depth.

The **JCB 2008 Pinot Noir No. 22, Mendocino Ridge** ($100), is bright and racy with notes of earth, lovely spice and full-on cherry. The silky smooth **JCB 2007 Pinot Noir No. 7, Sonoma Coast** ($75) has elegance galore, with racy acidity and precise, tangy cherry fruit. The juicy and—not surprisingly—quite Burgundian graceful style of these wines reflects not only Jean-Charles Boisser's European roots but his commitment to California.