

Napa Valley *Register*

New projects from Jean-Charles Boisset include spirits and wine from India

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JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset has expanded with the launch of JCB Spirits — three vodkas, classic, caviar infused and truffle infused, and a gin distilled from a wine base made from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay sourced from the Côte d'Or in Burgundy.

The spirits, which launched in early March in selected states, represents an extension of Burgundy beyond wine.

Boisset worked with a master distiller in Nuits-Saint-Georges for more than 15 years to perfect spirits recipes.

JCB Spirits are not mass-produced year-round, but rather made once per year and reflect a single vintage (2012 for the inaugural 7,200 bottles). The Pinot Noir grapes were partially de-stemmed and fermented in French oak open-top vats for more than 20 days. The wine was then aged in barrel for six months. The Chardonnay grapes were fermented and aged in French oak barrels for six months. The grape varieties were then blended and distilled seven times to achieve a silky texture. After the grapes rested for two months to let the flavors marry, the spirits were then filtered five times.

"JCB Spirits is the culmination of my dream of many years to create the ultimate elixir," Boisset said. "Distilled from a wine base and infused with botanicals as well as delicacies from the land and sea, these spirits are the ultimate expressions of what the earth has to offer."

From the foundation of the classic vodka, the project added infusions, one from sturgeon caviar from southwest France and one from black Périgord truffles. A proprietary process took more than 12 years to achieve was developed "to give an elegant, but not overpowering, expression of caviar in the vodka," according to a press release. "Truffle, one of the most ancient representations of the soil, creates the perfect umami expression when infused in the vodka."

JCB Gin is made from sustainably grown ingredients. Made by the same process as the vodka, through distillation of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wine, the gin is then infused with juniper, roses, coriander and the extracts of 44 herbs, spices and biodynamic plants including chamomile, honeysuckle, dandelion, calendula, borage, valerian, stinging nettle, lemon balm and yarrow.

The bottle was inspired by Boisset's collection of 17th and 18th-century decanters. Each spirit is adorned with a different colored diamond-cut neck ring that represents various elements of the earth: gold for the Pure Vodka, copper for the Truffle Vodka, onyx for the Caviar Vodka and platinum for the gin.

"These revered minerals characterize the significance of 'telluric' energy, currents that run under the earth and sea," the press release reads. "The intentional design and purity of each ingredient honor and reflect Mother Nature."

JCB Spirits are available in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.jcbspirits.com.

Wines from India

Boisset has also collaborated with Kapil Sekhri, co-founder of Fratelli Wines, a premium Indian winery to launch "J'NOON," a collection of limited-edition wines that capture the expression of Indian terroir. The wines will launch in the U.S. and UK in the summer of 2018, including a Napa Valley release event in June, and are currently available in India.

J'NOON is the first collaboration of its kind to create wines from Indian soil that cater to the global market. J'NOON is Boisset and Sekhri's artistic take on "junoon" — an Urdu word that means "passion."

The 2,400 limited-edition bottles of each wine — sparkling, white and red — come from grapes from the Fratelli estate-owned vineyards in Akluj, a town in the Solapur district of Maharashtra located on the right bank of the Nira River.

"I can't think of a better way to describe Jean-Charles than as artist who creates wines," Kapil Sekhri. "In him, I have been lucky to have discovered the friendship of a very fine man. For Fratelli, it's a glorious moment to be sharing and harboring such a splendid collaboration. This is our roar to the world, and we hope it will take us to newer heights."

"A deep attraction to India and meeting with the Sekhri family prompted us to seize this extraordinary moment in time to create unique wines that capture our dream of India," Boisset said. "India is one of the last bastions of discovery for wine. Our mission is to make a cultural statement that elevates and enhances the luxury fine wine culture of a nation whose richness, diversity, profound sensory expressions, incredible terroir and renowned cuisine awakens the senses and inspires all who have experienced it."