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Boisset Family Estates buys St. Helena winery

San Francisco Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

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Boisset Family Estates, a pinot noir specialist with roots in France and California, said Monday it has acquired St. Helena's **Raymond Vineyard & Cellar** from a Japanese company.

The purchase price for the winery and vineyard, Boisset's first in the Napa Valley, was not disclosed.

The seller was Japan's **Kirin Holdings Co.** Ltd., according to an Aug. 10 statement from Sausalito-based Boisset Family Estates, which said the purchase included the St. Helena winery, hospitality and production facilities and 200 acres of estate vineyards.

The 48-year-old Boisset family business, with branches in the United States and France, owns 20 wine properties in Burgundy, Beaujolais, the Rhône Valley, the South of France, Canada, and California.

"We don't disclose that information," Jean-Charles Boisset, president of Boisset Family Estates, told the San Francisco Business Times, referring to the purchase price. But he said the Raymond winery produces 150,000 cases of wine annually. Most sells for \$20 to \$50 per bottle, he said, but Raymond's higher-end offerings sell for as much as \$85 per bottle.

The Raymond family, which runs the St. Helena winery, has been in the business for 130 years and five generations, according to Monday's statement. Jean-Charles Boisset said Boisset hopes to build on that family tradition "and really make this Rutherford property known all around the globe."

Newly promoted Krisi Raymond is a vice president at Raymond Vineyard Cellar, Vineyard Manager Craig Raymond, and Walter Raymond, its president and winemaker, will remain with the property, according to a spokeswoman. Krisi Raymond is Walter's daughter; Craig Raymond is his nephew.

The Raymonds sold their property to Kirin in 1989, at which point they became managing partners with a minority interest, said a Boisset spokeswoman.

Other Boisset wineries include Bouchard Aîné Fils, Mommessin, J. Moreau Fils, Ropiteau Frères, Sonoma County's Lyeth Estate and DeLoach Vineyards in the Russian River Valley, according to Boisset, which said all of its estate vineyards are farmed organically or biodynamically, like Raymond, which produces cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, merlot and sauvignon blanc.

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