

DeLoach

MULTISOURCE



Brian Maloney

Founded: 1975
Winemakers: Julia Vasquez & Brian Maloney
Viticulturist: Eric Pooler
Acres Owned: 22; 17 under vine
Annual Production: 46,582 cases
Estate Grown: N/A
Owner: Boisset Family Estates
Known for: Single-vineyard Sonoma County pinot noir and zinfandel
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
Website: deloachvineyards.com

100 BEST

2009 directory

wineries of the year

american

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Sitting at the heart of the Russian River Valley, DeLoach offers a view to the west, where the river enters its final winding stretch to the cold, foggy Pacific coast, and to the south, towards the rolling, forested hills of Green Valley. It's easy to see what attracted Cecil DeLoach to what was then primitive pinot noir country in 1975. Nearly 30 years later, Burgundian Jean-Charles Boisset bought the property with the intention of planting the Boisset family flag in the booming California pinot noir market.

Boisset has gone far beyond a simple acquisition. Under Boisset, DeLoach has been reinvigorated, particularly with regard to environmentally friendly farming practices. Indeed, Boisset began by taking DeLoach's estate vineyard out of production; the site has been entirely replanted and is now certified organic and farmed biodynamically. The first vintage from the new vines will be 2010.

In the meantime, Boisset, along with consulting winemaker Greg LaFollette and co-winemakers Julia Vasquez and Brian Maloney, has expanded DeLoach's network of growers in Sonoma County. Among the wines to look for is the '06 Maboroshi Pinot Noir, a lush, earthy red from vines grown in the Goldridge soil deposits southwest of Sebastopol. Likewise, the '06 Van Der Kamp Pinot Noir, grown at an elevation of 1,100 feet on Sonoma Mountain, is an earthy, complex red, with a structure influenced by the site's volcanic soils.



DeLoach's best effort this year, however, is the winery's basic Russian River bottling, blended across a range of sites from Green Valley to Sebastopol. The '07 is broad and supple, with savory tannins that support delicate red berry flavor. It feels seamless and composed, ready for rare roast beef. The '06 Forgotten Vines Zinfandel, meanwhile, from a collection of old-vine vineyards in Sonoma County, feels rustic and rich, a balance of tart red cherry flavor and dark, dusty tannins. These wines show how Boisset's new team has revived this historic Russian River producer, with a portfolio that should only strengthen when the new estate vines come in. —W.M.W.

TOP-SCORING WINES

- 92** '07 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir \$24 (4/09)
- 90** '06 Sonoma County Forgotten Vines Zinfandel \$45 (6/09)
- 88** '06 Sonoma Coast Le Roi Pinot Noir \$60 (4/09)