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10.18.2011

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10.12.2011



**French-born Wine Executives Organize**

Food, wine and ideas flow at Raymond Vineyards

by Jim Gordon



The French Wine Executives met Sept. 30 at Raymond Vineyards. The group, founded by Jacques Brix (left), includes French-born winemakers and wine industry suppliers.

*St. Helena, Calif.*—The French Wine Executives, an association of French-born winemakers and wine industry suppliers working in the United States, met Sept. 30 at [Raymond Vineyards](#) to enjoy the new hospitality facilities with Raymond's owner, [Jean-Charles Boisset](#), to network with each other and enjoy the cooking of French-born Michel Cornu, Raymond's corporate chef.

The association has grown to 54 people since [Jacques Brix](#), vice president and director of sales for *Wines & Vines*, organized the first gatherings in 2009, with help from [Melanie Thomas](#) and [Stephane Janson](#) of [Janson Capsules](#). Twelve members are winemakers or winery principals.

To date, the group's goals have remained low key, emphasizing the exchange of success stories and professional experiences over food, with BYOB wines from the members. "It's all geared to improve these people's services and business results in the North American wine industry," said Brix, a native of southwest France.

He said the next steps for the group are to approve a name, write a mission statement, solidify rules for membership and meetings, and to discuss further expansion—if and how it should be accomplished.

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- Washington state promotes wine in India Winemakers from Washington state launched a marketing campaign in India during September. Winemakers hosted a series of trade tastings and winemaker dinners. [...](#)
- Brock receives \$2.8 million for Ontario research Gary Pickering, Brock University Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute researcher, professor of biological sciences, psychology and wine science. [...](#)
- Aluminum bottles now legal in New York The Aluminum Association, Arlington, Va., announced the passage of a bill in the New York State Legislature that will permit the sale of aluminum bottles. [...](#)
- French oak mill celebrates 20th anniversary Tonnellerie Quintessence announced the 20-year anniversary of its French oak stave mill, Merrain International. Tonnellerie Quintessence aims for wood. [...](#)

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- **October 19-20**  
6th Australian Wine Industry Environment Conf.
- **October 20**  
2011 Berry Sensory Evaluation Workshop
- **October 20-23**  
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