From the Ground Up – A Timeline of Excellence

There’s more to a vineyard than vines. We learned a long time ago that farming connects us with our family’s enduring agricultural heritage. We farm according to our values to nourish resilient and healthy ecosystems. From preserving open space to building soil health to the way we monitor water usage, our ability to manage our shared natural resources enhances the quality of our certified sustainable winegrowing, and therefore, the quality of our wines. We employ traditional practices and continue to pilot modern technology, so we can reduce our impact. Responsible land stewardship helps safeguard the longevity of our family business for future generations. We were winegrowers before we were winemakers.

Farmers from the beginning, Jess Stonestreet Jackson, Jr. and his family buys an aging orchard in Lake County and plants chardonnay grapes (1974).

Changing the landscape of American wines, Kendall-Jackson debuts with the release of the vintage 1982 Vintner’s Reserve Chardonnay. Jess Jackson and his two daughters, Jenny and Laura, begin to hand-sell the wines across the country with great success. The Jackson Family continues to be the leading producer of chardonnay.

Inspired by the rich traditions of France, Jess establishes a “Flavor Domaine” philosophy, planting individual varieties suited to their terroir, to promote ideal attributes of each grape. The family purchases part of the historic Tepusquet Vineyard on the Santa Maria Bench and establishes Cambria Estate Winery; the name pays homage to Barbara Banke’s Welsh heritage. (1986). Stonestreet Winery is established in Sonoma County’s Alexander Valley (1989).

Vérité 2001 La Muse earns its first 100-point score from Robert Parker, Jr., the first of 15 perfect scores to date for the winery. Remarkably, the entire 2007 vintage received 100-point scores.

Growing a global presence in the most renowned winemaking regions around the world, the family begins making wine in McLaren Vale, South Australia (2000) and St. Emilion, in Bordeaux, France (2003).

Jess Stonestreet Jackson’s vision and leadership were honored by Robert Parker, Jr.’s, Wine Personality of the Year award (2003), the Lifetime Achievement award by Wine Enthusiast Magazine (2007), and with his introduction to the Culinary Institute of America’s Vintners Hall of Fame (2009).

All estate vineyards earn certification under the Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing (CCSW) program (2010), the company installs its first solar panels (2012) and collaborates on a pilot project with Tesla Energy (2015). The company is named Drinks Business Green Company of the Year (2013).
and recognized with the EPA Green Power Leadership Awards (2013, 2016, 2018), California Green Medal Leader Award (2016).

The Jess S. Jackson Sustainable Winery Building opens at University of California, Davis in 2013. The family committed $4 million to fund the LEED Platinum-Certified teaching and research facility sharing sustainable winemaking best practices with the next generation of winemakers.

The family’s commitment to crafting wines with a distinct sense of place continues with its first acquisitions in Oregon’s Willamette Valley (2013) and South Africa (2014).

Jess Stonestreet Jackson, 1930-2011

Founder and visionary leader Jess Stonestreet Jackson, Jr. passed away on April 21, 2011. Barbara Banke, Jess' partner in life and in business, is named Chairman. Don Hartford is made Vice Chairman of the company. Barbara Banke is the first female to be named Wine Enthusiast's Wine Personality of the Year (2012) and was honored with Wine Spectator's Distinguished Service award (2017). Kendall-Jackson named "2017 American Winery of the Year" by Wine Enthusiast. Katie Jackson is selected for the Wine Enthusiast’s annual “40 under 40” highlighting those who are shaping the wine industry (2018).

As the family grows, the children and grandchildren of our founders take their place in the company’s leadership, charting a path for the future.

For more information on the preeminent philosophies and practices of Jackson Family Wines, visit www.jacksonfamilywines.com/history and www.jacksonfamilywines.com/stewardship