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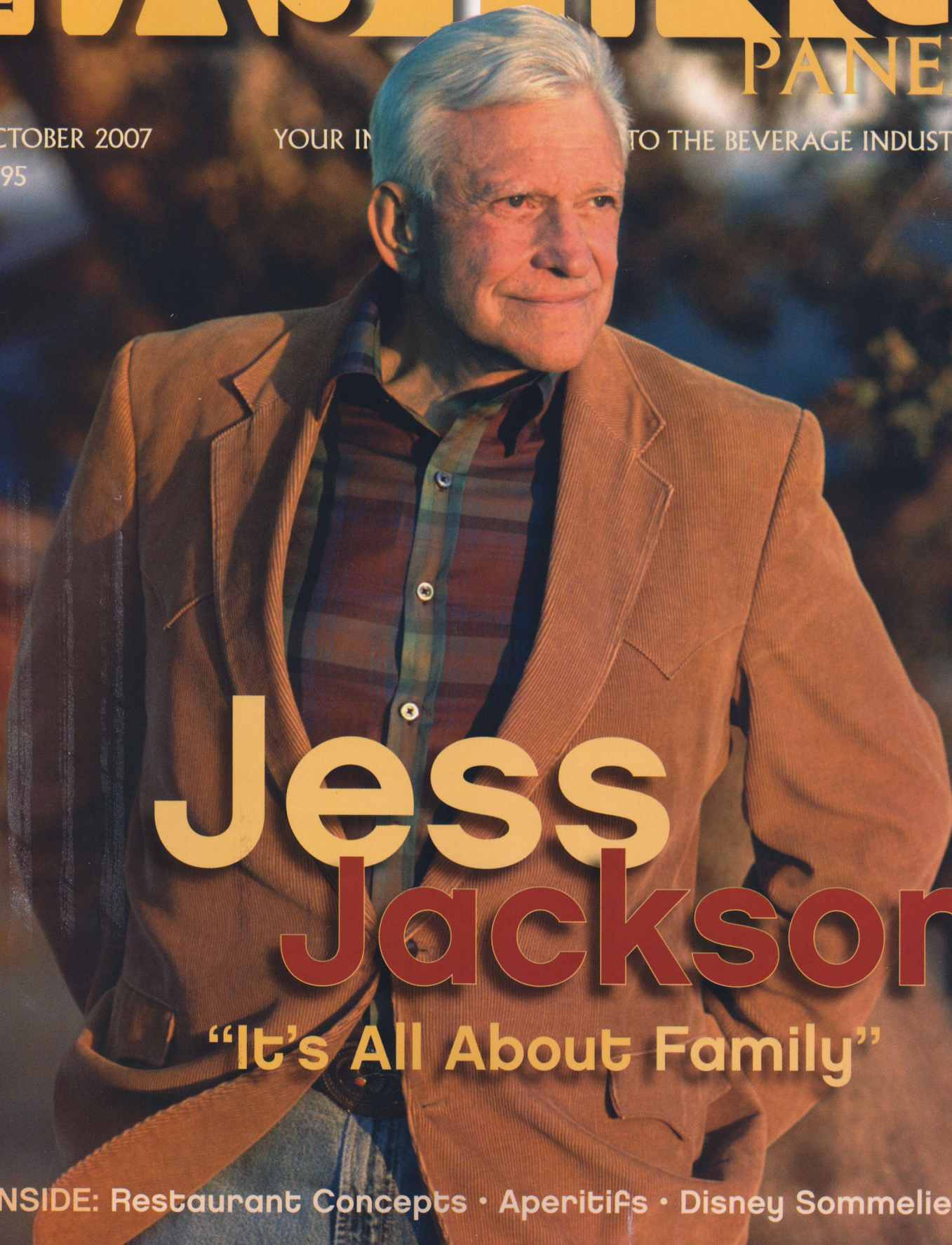
THE WASHINGTON PANEL

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YOUR INSIDE

TO THE BEVERAGE INDUSTRY



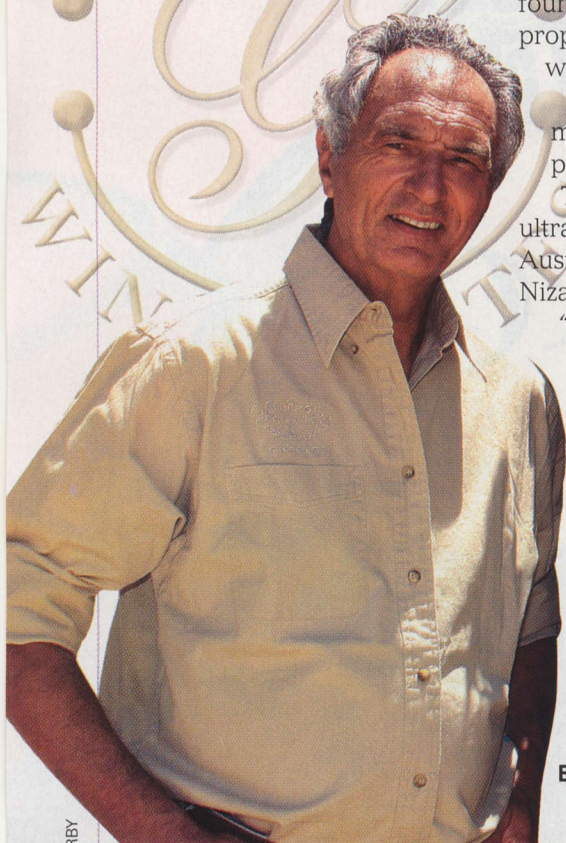
Jess Jackson

"It's All About Family"

INSIDE: Restaurant Concepts • Aperitifs • Disney Sommeliers

Goelet

Wine Estates



"It's an evolution process, it doesn't change my life," Bernard Portet told THE TASTING PANEL. News is that Clos du Val, the Napa Valley winery co-founded by Portet and John Goelet 35 years ago, has joined forces with its sister properties to form Goelet Wine Estates (GWE) to market the family's five global wine brands.

"When I started with Goelet in 1970, he had this global distribution idea in mind," Portet pointed out. "Finally, his son Christian [also Chairman of the company] set the dream into reality."

The move coordinates the sales, distribution and marketing resources of its ultra-premium pioneering wineries: Clos du Val, Taltarni Vineyards in Victoria, Australia; Clover Hill and Lalla Gully in Tasmania, Australia; and Domaine de Nizas in the Languedoc (France).

"Our objective in forming GWE is to provide a portfolio of world class wines that express each site's regional characteristics," explained Portet, who will oversee winemaking for the entire terroir-driven portfolio.

When asked if the production level will grow with GWE's formation, Portet answered, "Our approach is not about volume; it's about increasing quality." He also maintained that by offering this new dimension of labels to wholesale distribution partners, Goelet Wine Estates will be regarded as a more complete, diverse and coordinated portfolio. "We will be a more heavy duty player."

Portet also looks forward to the coordinated effort and open communication on the production side. "We have enhanced our winemaking team and together we can continually improve, solve problems and share better ideas in viticulture by utilizing all of our combined resources." ■■

Bernard Portet of Clos du Val and Goelet Wine Estates.

PHOTO BY NANCY KERBY

Baldacci Vineyards

Seventeen acres of vineyards stretch out along steep hills on the Baldacci estate. The wines, deeply intense but armed with mouth-grabbing fruit, scream Stags Leap District. Once a grower vineyard, selling grapes to Shafer, Clos du Val and other district wineries, Baldacci finally made its first estate wines in 2000.

The caves were drilled that same year and now the 3,000-square-foot underground storage has enough space for at least two vintages worth—about three thousand cases. Winemaker Rolando Herrera has been called a magician. The wines, although made in small quantities, sell out every year. His Carneros Pinot Noir project (23 acres) is a veritable Pinot nursery, where Herrera plants "every Pinot Noir clone imaginable." ■■

