

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Willakenzie Estate Joins Jackson Family Wines Portfolio**

**SANTA ROSA, Calif. (Oct. 3, 2016)** – Jackson Family Wines today announced the acquisition of Willakenzie Estate, the acclaimed Willamette Valley producer of single-vineyard Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris. This purchase deepens Jackson Family Wines’ investment in Oregon and affirms its commitment to producing high quality, uniquely expressive wines from the region. The transaction is expected to close on Wednesday, October 5.

“The distinct, vivid wines of Willakenzie Estate complement our Willamette Valley offerings,” said Hugh Reimers, president, Jackson Family Wines. “Welcoming Willakenzie to our family not only adds to our luxury Pinot Noir vineyard holdings and winemaking capabilities, but also introduces highly-regarded Pinot Gris to our Willamette Valley portfolio.”

Co-founded by Bernard and Ronni Lacroute after Bernard’s successful career in technology and Ronni’s career teaching French, Willakenzie Estate marked a return to Bernard’s Burgundian roots. The couple planted the Estate vineyards starting in 1992, and made their first wine in 1995 in their newly-built, state-of-the-art gravity-flow winery.

In keeping with the belief that wines reflect a sense of place, the winery was named after the predominant sedimentary soil type on the Estate. In years since, the winery has established a reputation for making elegant, balanced wines. Thirteen different Pinot Noir clones are represented in the vineyards, displaying a wide array of flavors and sensory components. The Estate is also reputed for its plantings of Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc clones from the Alsace region of France, Gamay Noir clones from Beaujolais, as well as Pinot Meunier and Dijon clones of Chardonnay.

Along with the Willakenzie Estate brand, gravity-feed winery and stunning hillside hospitality center with views of the vineyards, the transaction includes 100 planted acres at the Estate in the Yamhill-Carlton region, and 25 planted acres of Pinot Noir clones at the Jory Hills Vineyard in the Dundee Hills. Zepponi & Company served as the exclusive financial advisor to Willakenzie Estate and facilitated the successful transaction. Financial terms are not available.

## **About Jackson Family Wines**

Jackson Family Wines (JFW) is a family-owned and run company that crafts award-winning wines of distinct character and quality. With a focus on sustainable viticulture practices, responsible vineyard and natural resource management and unparalleled winemaking, the family's collection comprises more than 50 renowned brands, with substantial winery and vineyard holdings throughout the premier wine-growing regions of California and Oregon. JFW also crafts fine wines from Australia, Chile, France, Italy and South Africa. Founded in 1982 by wine pioneer, entrepreneur and philanthropist Jess Jackson, Jackson Family Wines and its wineries are led by Chairman Barbara Banke and the Jackson family. Learn more on the web at [www.jacksonfamilywines.com](http://www.jacksonfamilywines.com).

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