

E. & J. Gallo Winery Announces Acquisition Of Orin Swift

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E. & J. Gallo Winery

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MODESTO, Calif., June 9, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- E. & J. Gallo Winery (Gallo) announced today that it has purchased Orin Swift Cellars, a brand known for their excellent wines, bold imagery, memorable names and creative labels. Founded in 1998 by innovator and winemaker Dave Phinney, Orin Swift's creative and exciting approach to brand innovation has led it to become a multinational luxury wine brand with a large consumer following. In addition to creating strong consumer loyalty, Phinney's expressive winemaking style is continuously recognized by noteworthy wine critics and has garnered numerous 90-plus point scores, as well as being named to Wine Spectator's Top 100 list several times.

The acquisition includes the Orin Swift Cellars brand, related inventory, and control of the elegant and popular tasting room located in St. Helena. The Napa Valley tasting room, which opened in 2013, is a popular destination for the brand's loyal followers and will remain open to the public.

According to Roger Nabedian, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Gallo's Premium Wine Division, "We are excited to work with Dave Phinney who has a long history of creating memorable and bold brands. His winemaking expertise yields consistent high scores by top publications and we are thrilled that he will continue to provide creative and winemaking direction for these brands in the future. He added, "This purchase supports the company's strategy for continued growth in the luxury wine segment."

"I've known and done business with the Gallo family for over a decade and it makes me very proud that a company that I have such a deep respect for will become the steward of the brand that bears my family's name," said Orin Swift founder Dave Phinney. He added, "I'm looking forward to a long and productive relationship where together we can propel Orin Swift Cellars to even greater heights."

Zepponi & Company served as the exclusive financial advisor to Orin Swift Cellars. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

About E. & J. Gallo Winery

Founded by brothers Ernest and Julio Gallo in 1933 in Modesto, California, E. & J. Gallo Winery is the world's largest family-owned winery and the acclaimed producer of award-winning wines and spirits featured in more than 90 countries around the globe. A pioneer in the art of grape growing, winemaking, sustainable practices, marketing and worldwide distribution, Gallo crafts and imports wines and spirits to suit a diverse range of tastes and occasions, from everyday offerings to boutique, luxury bottlings.

The Gallo portfolio is comprised of more than 80 unique brands, including Barefoot Cellars, Dark Horse, and Gallo Family Vineyards, as well as premium box wines The Naked Grape and Vin Vault. Premium offerings include Apothic, Carnivor, Columbia Winery, Ecco Domani, Edna Valley Vineyard, J Vineyards & Winery, Louis M. Martini, MacMurray Estate Vineyards, Mirassou, Souverain, Talbott Vineyards, and William Hill Estate, along with highly acclaimed imports, such as Alamos, Brancaia, La Marca, Las Rocas, Martín Códax, Whitehaven, and LUX Wines, importers of Allegrini, Pieropan and Renato Ratti. Gallo Spirits offers New Amsterdam Vodka and Gin and E&J Brandy, in addition to imported Scotch whiskies from Whyte & Mackay, including The Dalmore, Jura Single Malt and John Barr Blended.

SOURCE E. & J. Gallo Winery