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Sandra Jordan

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WINE OFFSPRING

WINEMAKING MAY BE HARD WORK, BUT NO ONE CAN DISPUTE THE ROMANCE OF THE VINTNER'S LIFE. TRUE, SOME WINEMAKERS VENTURE INTO OTHER ENDEAVORS, BUT MORE OFTEN, THEIR TIES TO THE VINEYARD REMAIN STRONG. HERE ARE THE STORIES OF FOUR ENTREPRENEURS FROM WINEMAKING FAMILIES WHO HAVE FOUND UNIQUE WAYS TO SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR WINE

by Kimberly Olson |

SANDRA JORDAN: A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE

Wine enthusiasts from around the world have enjoyed many a sumptuous meal at Jordan Vineyards and Winery, where founder Tom Jordan and his wife, Sandra, have perfected the art of entertaining. When dinner guests began admiring the elegant, handcrafted items in their midst—designed and made by Sandra herself—an idea took hold.

Inspired to share her unique creations with a larger audience, Sandra launched Sandra Jordan Collections, a line of luxury products for the table and wine cellar—from silver tasting cups to silky alpaca textiles—inspired by the beauty of Wine Country. “The graceful tendrils of a grapevine appear in many of my designs,” she says. “Wine Country living is about the attention to detail that makes your guests feel special.”

Jordan loves history, so when she finds an antique with a story to tell, an interpretation of the piece often pops up in her collection. “In Burgundy, I spotted a marriage cup that a bride and groom received,” she says. “It was next used as a sipping cup for mulled wine by a mother in labor. I decided to reinterpret the design of the cup—the scary gargoyle handles were changed to embracing grape leaves, and I added soft hammering to capture the sense of a piece that had been lovingly used.”

Her collection can be found at Gumps, Jordan Winery, and other luxury stores, and is also sold to high-end restaurants, hotels, and wineries. But keeping old-world craftsmanship alive is only part of Jordan's mission. “I feel very fortunate that I can create jobs,” she says. “We've built two factories in Peru, my native country. I'm very proud that I'm able to give back.”