

EXTRAORDINARY LIVING FOR EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

LUXURY

LAS VEGAS

— THE —

BOTTLED POETRY

OF *Napa Valley* BY MARILYN LAROCQUE



Innovation at Far Niente

Gold rush 49'er John Benson founded Far Niente in 1885. Today, the "gold" comes from the sun since the winery has taken solar technology to the next level with the first ever "floating" solar system, "Floatovoltaic" Solar Array. Traditional solar panel "farms" occupy land; at wineries it's valuable vineyard land. At Far Niente, nearly 1,000 solar panels float on pontoons in the pond in the 100-acre Martin Stelling Cabernet Sauvignon Vineyard behind the winery. They account for about three-fourths of an acre of the total system. A land-mounted acre of about 1,300 panels is adjacent to the pond. By utilizing the pond, the winery saves about \$150,000 dollars worth of bottled wine annually.

At peak output, the combined water-land solar array generates 400 kilowatts, enough to offset the winery's annual power usage and provide a net-zero energy bill. The savings don't come cheap. The Far Niente system plus a land-based system at Nickel & Nickel cost \$7 million. "It will take about 12 years for rebates and tax credits, combined with savings from producing our own energy, to offset the costs," said Far Niente President and CEO, Larry Maguire. "First and foremost we're committed to producing great wines. However, we're an agriculture-based business and have an obligation to do our part to take care of the environment."

www.farniente.com.