

# Decanter

## PANEL TASTING

**2012 Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, Oakville**

*Decanter* average score: 96/100 pts

Individual judges scores: **Stephen Brook** 96 **Alex Hunt MW** 96 **Xavier Rousset MS** 96



The justly admired Oakville winery has been a Napa Vallejo fixture since 1979, when it was founded by Gil Nickel. From the outset the winemaker has been Dirk Hampson, though today he keeps a knowing eye on the winery's young winemaking team. But his steady presence, as well as that of the Nickel family, has ensured a consistency of style over the decades. Today all wines are estate-grown, and the vineyards are close to Martha's Vineyard and other iconic sites. This wine is aged for 17 months in more than 80% new oak, and is always rich and polished.

**Stephen Brook** Aromas of oaky black fruit and refreshing menthol. Medium-bodied yet intense, with purity of blackcurrant fruit and sleek tannins. Lifted, stylish and complex – great allure, finesse and poise.

**Alex Hunt MW** Firm, rocky, fresh currant nose – and invigorating style. Very cool and composed on the palate. Refreshingly classical.

**Xavier Rousset MS** Great tannic structure, with just the right level of acidity for the style. Pure and focused with graphite and blue fruit tones. Very classy.