



THE NAPA VALLEY WINE ESTATE
ESTABLISHED 1885

Founded

1885

Winemaker

Nicole Marchesi

Wines

Napa Valley Chardonnay
Coombsville Chardonnay
Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon
Benson Vale Cabernet Sauvignon

Inspired by the great wine estates of Europe, Far Niente Winery was built to craft world-class expressions of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay. This ethos, which continues to inform every action the team takes today, has enabled Far Niente to become a standard-bearer for Napa Valley wines worldwide.

Situated in the heart of Oakville, Far Niente was originally founded in 1885 by pioneer John Benson, who named the winery “Far Niente,” taken from the Italian phrase “Dolce Far Niente,” translating loosely to “the sweetness of doing nothing,” and meant to inspire the art of savoring the moment. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the gravity-fed winery was built and designed by Hamden McIntyre, who was responsible for many of Napa’s most remarkable wineries. Far Niente prospered until it was abandoned in 1919 with the onset of Prohibition. It was left untouched for sixty years until 1979, when the Nickel family purchased the property and began a three-year renovation, restoring the winery to its original 19th-century grandeur. They produced their first wine, a Chardonnay from the 1979 vintage, at a warehouse in Sausalito.

Winemaking finally returned to the estate in 1982, with the harvest of the winery’s first Cabernet Sauvignon. Chardonnay was also produced at the winery for the first time that year. More than four decades later, the winery continues to focus solely on these two varietals. Far Niente’s success is based on its focus on producing the highest quality wines possible under the direction of its talented winemaking team led by Nicole Marchesi, and has a long history of environmental stewardship and socially responsible activities.

Far Niente’s Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignons are widely recognized by critics, the trade, and collectors as being among the most consistently excellent wines produced in every vintage. A vision of excellence, paired with a focus on “house style,” vineyard ownership, and sustainability, is largely responsible for the winery’s continued success as one of the world’s great wine-producing estates.



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From the beginning, the winery has focused on crafting Cabernets and Chardonnays that seamlessly balances grace, elegance, depth and length. Far Niente takes the best that the vineyards offer each vintage, working with the sites to express their discrete character to craft the beautiful structure and distinctive style that defines the wines, enabling them to age gracefully in the cellar.

At the root of the Far Niente's philosophy of "house style" and dedication to quality are the acres of Napa Valley vineyards in the winery's holdings. Far Niente's Martin Stelling Vineyard is one of the most famous sites for growing exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon in Oakville, and is the cornerstone of Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon. Far Niente's Chardonnay is a blend of superlative Napa Valley vineyards, many of which are located in Coombsville.

About Far Niente Wine Estates

Far Niente Wine Estates is a family of California wineries linked by a joint mission: To produce world-class wines representative of their home vineyards and grape varieties. Built around Oakville's Far Niente Estate, originally established by John Benson in 1885, Far Niente Wine Estates is committed to elevating California's finest terroirs through precision winemaking and conscientious farming. Abandoned during Prohibition, the original Oakville estate was restored by the Nickel family, and resumed wine production in 1982. Preserving and expanding the Napa legacy that began on this land over 135 years ago inspired Far Niente Wine Estates to gradually expand in the Napa and Russian River Valleys. The family of wineries includes several Cabernet Sauvignon-focused wineries including single-vineyard Cabernet pioneer Nickel & Nickel; the blend-focused Bella Union estate in Rutherford; and Post and Beam, a winery inspired by the America's iconic post and beam barns, and dedicated to crafting equally long-lived, classic wines. Far Niente Wine Estates also includes EnRoute, a Russian River Valley estate devoted to world-class Pinot Noir; and Dolce, America's leading late-harvest dessert wine.



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Nicole Marchesi, Winemaker, Far Niente

Nicole Marchesi is the fourth winemaker to lead Far Niente in its 40-year history, and brings inimitable expertise to her work in the cellar. Nicole joined Far Niente in 2005 as an enologist, and quickly became the assistant winemaker before stepping into her current role as winemaker in 2009.

Before joining Far Niente, Marchesi fueled her curiosity for winemaking by working in both Sonoma County and New Zealand. During her tenure in Napa Valley, Nicole has amassed a deep knowledge of Far Niente's vineyard sites and house style. Together, this understanding allows her to craft elegant, nuanced wines that capture the essence of both our Napa Valley terroir and the singularity of each vintage.

Originally a biology major at UC Davis, Nicole began her winemaking studies after writing a newspaper article about the benefits of wine and chocolate. She is perpetually inspired by the way that winemaking allows her to nurture her own curiosity while simultaneously engaging with nature and people. Her all-time favorite wine pairing is Far Niente Chardonnay and lobster.