



FAR NIENTE WINERY OPENS FOR PUBLIC TOURS & TASTINGS

Oakville, CA – After 25 years of being open only to the wine trade, Oakville's Far Niente winery opened its historic doors for public tours and wine tastings, by appointment, in May 2004.

Legendary for its jewel box beauty, stunning gardens and critically acclaimed estate wines, Far Niente has tempted tourists, from a distance, for decades.

“We meet folks who have been buying and drinking Far Niente for years, yet when they visited the valley, they could not come see us. So, we decided that it was time to open the winery gates for our lifelong fans and also to create new relationships with people just beginning to learn about us,” says Larry Maguire, president and CEO.

Founded in 1885, Far Niente was one of the Napa Valley's first gravity flow wineries and prospered until the onset of Prohibition in 1919. The winery was abandoned for 60 years, until Oklahoman Gil Nickel purchased the property and adjoining vineyard in 1979 and began a meticulous, three-year restoration. Nickel's efforts were rewarded with the placement of Far Niente on the National Register of Historic Places. Far Niente is set among 13 acres of stunning gardens that feature the largest planting of southern azaleas in California, a nod to the Nickel family's links to the commercial nursery business.

Tours begin with a walk through the tri-level winery, which is built into the surrounding hillside. Guests are then led through a portion of the 40,000 square-foot Far Niente wine aging caves, which were the first modern wine caves built in North America when

excavation began in 1980. The tour concludes with a visit to the Carriage House, home to a fascinating collection of classic automobiles.

Tastings follow each tour and feature the current releases of Far Niente's estate wines, including a Napa Valley Chardonnay and Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as carefully aged Cabernets from the Far Niente Cave Collection. Each tasting ends with a taste of Dolce, the sumptuous, late harvest wine produced by Far Niente's sister winery, also called Dolce.

Far Niente offers daily tours and tastings, by appointment, Monday through Sunday. The fee is \$50 per person. For more information or to make an appointment for a tour and tasting, please call the winery at 1-800-FN-DOLCE (1-800-363-6523).

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