

Robb Report

FOR THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

JUNE 2005

BEST OF THE BEST

WINTER SUNLIGHT

The Nickels family has supplied Napa Valley not only with several icons—the 19th-century stone winery at Far Niente and their inimitable Art Nouveau-style labels—but with an abundance of remarkably consistent fine wines. Far Niente's Chardonnays have become standards on the lists of top restaurants worldwide, and the idiosyncratic and fascinating single-vineyard releases of Far Niente's sister winery, Nickel & Nickel, offer collectors a taste journey through the region's most unique *terroirs*. But the third sister in the family's portfolio, Dolce,



holds a special place: These Sauternes-style dessert wines drink like distilled sunlight in a glass. One Dolce release has taken this beauty even farther: the **Dolce Saint Nicholas 1999**, of which only 1,000 bottles were made. The wine's name is that given by German winemakers to late-harvest wine that remains on the vine until the Feast of St. Nicholas in early December. Amber in color, this extraordinary release is surprisingly light in texture, yet richly flavored with candied orange and toasted almonds, lemon custard, and crème caramel. —B.A.