Greg Allen set out to earn a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, but the lure of making wine—Dolce in particular—eventually won his loyalty.

A San Diego native, Allen graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and worked at California’s Mare Island Naval Shipyard as an engineer for the Department of Defense.

When Mare Island closed, Allen enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to pursue a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering. A lab colleague regularly shared wines over lunch with Allen and told him about the Enology program at the University of California at Davis. Boston’s harsh winter motivated Allen to contact the school and make an appointment to visit over spring break.

The rest, as they say, is history. While enrolled at Davis, Allen won an internship with Far Niente, a sister winery to Dolce. Additional internships in the US and abroad followed. Allen returned to work as assistant winemaker for Dolce and was promoted to winemaker in 2001.

More than a decade later, Allen meticulously shepherds each vintage from start to finish. Under his stewardship, Dolce has exceeded its status as the finest American late-harvest wine.

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