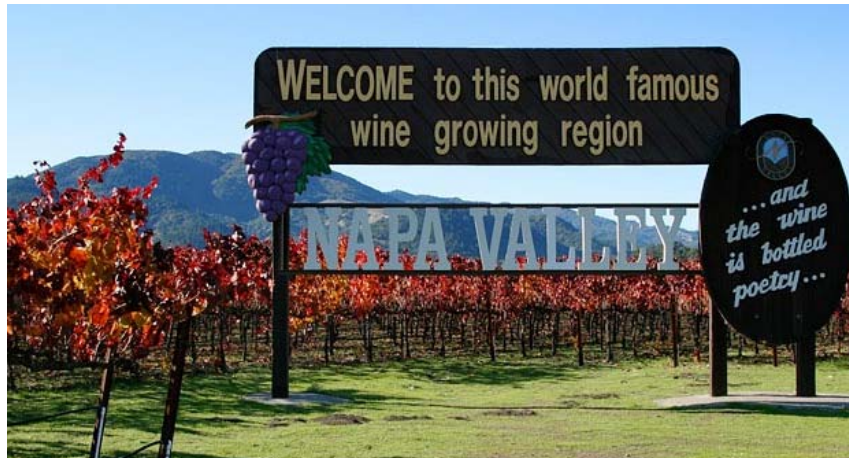




Girls Getaway to Napa Valley (or "Eat, Drink, Repeat")

I've always wanted to visit Napa Valley for the scenery, food and (of course) the wine. Finally, in September, my wish came true! Despite a brief set back during the Prohibition Era, Napa Valley gradually gained notoriety in wine circles in the late 1800 and 1900s. In the 1970s, the region gained "overnight" success when a Napa Valley Cabernet beat a famous French Bordeaux in a blind taste test at an international wine competition in Paris. This upset placed Napa on the map as a distinguished wine making area.



As we drove from San Francisco to Napa Valley, we were amazed at how quickly the scenery changed from urban highway to small-town roads. When we drove through the town of St. Helena on our way to our first wine tasting, we fell in love and decided we had to come back to this quaint town and check out the boutiques and sidewalk cafes that lined Highway 29 (aka Main Street).

After our Hourglass tour, we drove to Kenzo Estate, which is located in Napa and about 40 minutes from Hourglass. Owner Kenzo Tsujimoto, chairman of Japan's Capcom Group, has a true love of wine and is dedicated to the art of winemaking. My fave Kenzo wine was the Murasaki (means purple in Japanese), which is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.



It's always sad to leave a Girls Getaway, but this one was even more difficult than most. We fell in love with the beautiful Napa Valley scenery, the wine tasting (of course), the fresh and delicious food served non stop and the people of Napa who made our trip one that we will never forget. I never thought of Napa as a place where people are connected to the land, but that's exactly what I found. The people here love the land, the wine making business and producing the highest quality food and wine you will find anywhere in the world. Thank you Napa and Glodow Nead Public Relations for your warm and welcoming hospitality.