



Passion Points: Escape

Just Back From...Napa & Sonoma

One newcomer that reminds me of prerecession times is Kenzo (www.kenzoestate.com), a big-name winery, estate and tasting room slated to open in May. Set on 4,000 acres in the hills above Napa Town, Kenzo is the brainchild of Japanese mogul Kenzo Tsujimoto, head of gaming company Capcom, who recruited a dream team for his dream winery. They include renowned winemakers David Abreu and Heidi Barrett, chef Thomas Keller, who will create food pairings, and general manager Michael Terrien, the brilliant winemaker behind the boutique label Kazmer & Blaise (www.tricyclewineco.com), which operates out of Carneros. Terrien produces beautiful vintages, including a stunning Pinot Noir, in heartbreakingly small quantities, so the best way to procure a bottle or two is to join the winery's mailing list, which alerts members to the new releases. You can also try e-mailing Terrien and begging for a private tour (as I successfully did).