



# New Napa winery raises the bar for wine tasting

*Manager says winery focuses on simplicity, serenity*

**By JULIA HOLLISTER**  
For the Capital Press

NAPA, Calif. — There is no recession in the Napa Valley if the \$100 million, 4,000-acre Kenzo Estates is the economic barometer.

Founded by Kenzo Tsujimoto, a Japanese computer game tycoon, the parcel on Mount George is five times larger than New York's Central Park. But instead of opulent grounds with impressive sculptures and tumbling waterfalls, there is an air of understated serenity with subtle attention to detail. Weathered



Julia Hollister/For the Capital Press

Michael Terrien, general manager of Kenzo Estates in Napa, explains the winery's aging process.

stones for the parking lot were shipped from Italy and 100-year-old olive trees were up-

rooted from Corning, Calif., and trucked to the site.

Tsujimoto bought the 1,500-

foot-high property in 1990, planted the vines in 2002 and hired an elite team: winemaker Heidi Barrett, of Screaming Eagle, vineyard manager David Abreu and chef Thomas Keller of Bouchon and French Laundry.

Of the 4,000 acres, only 2 percent is planted to vineyards.

"We have all the Bordeaux wines: Cabernet Sauvignon,

Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Merlot," general manager Michael Terrien said. "I think the winery represents simplicity with 'no bling.' Ninety percent of our wine is sold in Japan and now we are expanding to U.S. markets."

Visitors to the estate must call in advance for a tasting appointment.