

# KENZO ESTATE

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Kenzo Estate Appoints Marc Nanes To The Position of Winemaker**

Kenzo Estate announces the departure of longtime Winemaker Heidi Barrett, and the promotion of Marc Nanes to the title of Winemaker, effective immediately. Heidi Barrett's contributions in establishing Kenzo Estate's elite luxury portfolio of Napa Valley wines is to be applauded with our deepest gratitude.

Marc Nanes holds 26 vintages of premium winemaking experience to his credit, including the last 13 with Kenzo Estate under the tutelage of Winemaker Heidi Barrett. Prior to joining Kenzo Estate in 2009, Marc's winemaking experience began at Cakebread Cellars, working for Winemaker Bruce Cakebread. From there, Marc went on to work with Aaron Pott at St. Clement, Sara Gott at Quintessa, and Philippe Melka and Jayson Woodbridge at Hundred Acre. In all, Marc's experience includes harvests in Napa Valley and Australia's Barossa Valley, working with Bordeaux and Burgundy varietals. Marc was born and raised in New York City.

Kenzo Estate owner, Vintner and CEO Kenzo Tsujimoto, and his wife and Kenzo Estate's COO Natsuko Tsujimoto, remark: "We believe that Marc has the expertise to continue to create award-winning wines of consequence, and we look forward with anticipation to the new energy he will bring to the winemaking process, incorporating his deep understanding of the magic of Kenzo Estate wines."

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## **The Winery**

Kenzo Estate winery produces premium Cabernet Sauvignon, Bordeaux-style Red Wine Blends, Sauvignon Blanc, Rosé and Sparkling wines in Napa Valley. These estate wines are carefully handcrafted from vineyards managed by David Abreu, on the secluded, pristine 3,800-acre property nestled above the town of Napa, California. Opened to the public in 2010, the winery hosts guests for tours and tastings by appointment; in Japan, the wines are available at Kenzo Estate restaurants in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto.

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## **The Team**

### **Kenzo Tsujimoto, Founder, Owner, CEO**

A native of Nara, Japan, Kenzo Tsujimoto founded Capcom in 1983, now one of the world's most successful video game publishers headquartered in Osaka, Japan. Within a few years, Capcom had achieved international success through development of original games such as "Street Fighter," "Resident Evil" and "Mega Man," some of which have been adapted into motion pictures. In 1985,

Capcom opened its first overseas subsidiary in Sunnyvale, CA, which has since moved to San Francisco. Under Kenzo's leadership, Capcom has created some of the world's best-known and highest-selling video games while making significant contributions to its local community and industry associations.

In 1990, Kenzo acquired 3,800 acres of undeveloped land in the southeastern mountains of Napa Valley. He had first become enchanted with Napa Valley after the historic 1976 Judgment of Paris, which launched Napa wines onto the world stage. Setting out with the objective of creating world-class wines of distinction, artistry and tradition, Kenzo retained some of Napa Valley's most prominent advisors to assist with planning and development of the winery. Kenzo's unwavering passion and vision brought his dream of establishing Kenzo Estate to fruition, and the winery opened its doors in 2010. Then, in 2016, as seasoned restaurateurs with five Kenzo Estate dining establishments in Japan, Kenzo and his wife, Natsuko, opened the doors to Kenzo Napa, their signature U.S. restaurant dedicated to showcasing the true beauty of authentic Japanese cuisine in a small intimate space in downtown Napa. Kenzo is currently the CEO of both Capcom and Kenzo Estate's ventures in the U.S. and Japan.

### **Natsuko Tsujimoto, COO**

Natsuko Tsujimoto is the wife of Kenzo Estate Founder and Owner, Kenzo Tsujimoto. She couples as his business partner, assuming the role of Kenzo Estate President and Chief Operating Officer, as well as the Producer and Designer of Kenzo Napa. Since 2010, Natsuko has played a key role in opening five Kenzo Estate restaurants in her native Japan, sharing an elegant style which weaves a traditional Japanese aesthetic with sophisticated, modern sensibility. In 2016, Natsuko and Kenzo opened the doors to Kenzo Napa, their signature dining establishment sharing upscale, authentic Japanese cuisine in the heart of the Napa Valley. At Kenzo Napa, Natsuko has procured every element of the restaurant's décor, including the selection of wood, stone and tile imported from Japan, to the arrangement of dishware, exquisite lighting, custom shoji screens and the sushi counter. At both Kenzo Estate in the Napa Valley, and in Japan, Natsuko helps drive the marketing and hospitality efforts and oversees creative branding such as the winery's distinctive Japanese-influenced wine names and labels. Natsuko and Kenzo share their passion and commitment to excellence in their work. A renowned couple in their native Japan, they also share a love of food, wine and travel.

### **David Abreu, Viticulturist, Vineyard Management**

A third-generation rancher from St. Helena, California, David Abreu graduated from the Viticulture and Enology Program at UC Davis and founded Abreu Vineyard Management in 1980.

While overseeing vineyard operations at Inglenook Winery, Abreu frequently traveled to Bordeaux where he observed French winemaking and vineyard techniques. His popularity grew as wineries recognized his talents and hired him to plant and manage their vineyards. By the late 1990's, he was considered one of the premier viticulturists in Napa Valley, growing grapes for wineries such as Screaming Eagle, Staglin Family Vineyard, Colgin Cellars, Harlan Estate, Bryant Family Vineyard, Araujo Estate Wines and Grace Family Vineyards, among others. Upon joining Kenzo Estate in 2002, David made a stark departure from the northern Napa Valley vineyards he typically managed, where the climate is considerably warmer. He recognized the potential of Kenzo Estate's elevation and proximity to the San Pablo Bay and was confident that the location would yield grapes of extraordinary quality and a uniquely refined style within Napa Valley. David's on-going precision farming and long-range vision is evidenced in Kenzo Estate's consistently outstanding grape harvests.

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