

## Now Open: Morimoto Napa

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New York meets Napa. Photo by Hopper Stone/stonefoto.com

Tonight, downtown Napa officially says hello to Iron Chef **Masaharu Morimoto**. The first of the three big-name restaurants in the Riverfront development — **Fish Story** and **Tyler Florence Rotisserie and Wine** being the other two — **Morimoto Napa** is now open for dinner service. Most of the big details were *unveiled* last week and Eater SF has the lengthy opening *menu*, which is a blend of Morimoto classics (Toro Tartare, Duck Five Ways, Tuna Pizza) and new Napa specials (Fig Tempura, Sea Urchin Carbonara).

The space, as you can see, has a very chic and industrial look, courtesy of designer **Thomas Schoos**, with design highlights including petrified grape vines on the walls and iron chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. Upon entrance, diners pass by the open kitchen to enter the main room (pictured), which encompasses a bar, a lounge area, a sushi bar and roughly 70-80 dining seats. Beyond the second concrete pillar above, there is another room, which can be used as a 70-seat private dining room (with patio) or simply as overflow. There's also a patio directly on the riverwalk, overlooking the river.

Earlier this week, friends and family toasted the Iron Chef, and as is often the case with Wine Country, it was a warm welcome from the industry crowd up there. Top-flight chefs from both Wine Country (**Christopher Kostow**, **Timothy Hollingsworth**) and the city (**Mourad Lahlou**, **Chris Cosentino** et al.) were present, as were a wide range of local winemakers.