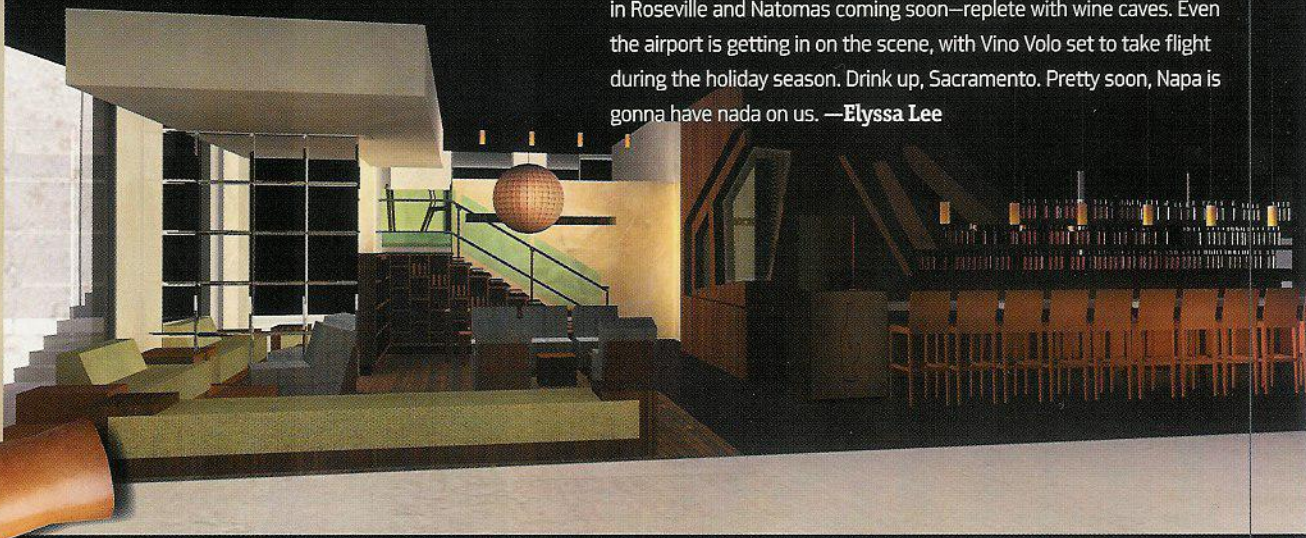


HOT CONCEPT

the wine bar

Wine is flowing a little more freely these days in Sactown. Make that a *lot* more, with the sudden explosion of oenophile-friendly hotspots. Take, for example, the two-block radius around 17th and L in midtown. 58 Degrees & Holding set the bar there on 18th and Capitol a few months ago, spoiling patrons with 500 wines to choose from while they nibbled on artichoke pesto bruschetta. Now they're about to get a couple of spirited new neighbors.

December will see the opening of The Grand at 16th and L from the folks at Aioli, which will boast a diverse list of 85 labels. Right on its heels will be the 3,000 sq. ft. L Wine Lounge & Restaurant (pictured) on 18th and L by Marcus Marquez, formerly of The Kitchen. The suburbs won't be left out to dry, with ambitious projects like Crush 29 in Roseville and Natomas coming soon—replete with wine caves. Even the airport is getting in on the scene, with Vino Volo set to take flight during the holiday season. Drink up, Sacramento. Pretty soon, Napa is gonna have nada on us. —Elyssa Lee



RENDERING_DAGGETT DESIGN