



Groth

ROOTED IN OAKVILLE

OUR FLAGSHIP

When our family acquired our Oakville Estate in 1981, we knew it was a special property, one eminently suited to growing great Cabernet Sauvignon. It quickly became clear that certain Cabernet lots from the western edge of our property displayed unique, intriguing characteristics distinct enough to be bottled on their own. Those instincts were affirmed when Robert Parker of the *Wine Advocate* gave our 1985 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon—our third vintage of the wine—100 points, the first perfect score for a U.S. wine. The review sparked feverish demand for the wine and put our fledgling winery on the map.

Since then, our Reserve Vineyard has only improved. With 27.43 acres planted entirely to Cabernet Sauvignon, the site is an anomaly within the greater 121 acres of the Oakville Estate, and within the Oakville AVA itself. The soils set this narrow band of vineyard apart. While generally described as gravelly, sandy loam, they also feature an abundance of red chert, a hard sedimentary rock made up of small quartz crystals and fossils. These rocks were deposited in this thin sliver of land by an alluvial fan flowing out of the Vaca Range to the east millions of years ago. Found in disproportionate amounts in this part of Oakville, they represent the heart and soul of the “sweet spot” we call our Reserve Vineyard.



RESERVE VINEYARD

SOIL	<i>Gravelly Sandy Loam</i>
DESCRIPTION	<i>Abundance of gravel/chert; high drainage/permeability; low water-holding capacity</i>
COMPOSITION	<i>60% sand, 30% silt, 10% clay</i>
IMPACT ON VINES <i>(compared to other Groth blocks)</i>	<i>Smaller canopy, earlier ripening, smaller berries, more concentrated flavors</i>



2018 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Oakville, Napa Valley

VINTAGE

We started out with a cooler spring and slightly later than average bud break, but the conditions after bud break were warm and mild throughout the growing season. The later bud break translated into a harvest stretched out by continued mild conditions post-veraison, giving the grapes quite a bit of hang time for exceptional flavor development.

THE WINE

Blending: All the Cabernet from our Reserve Vineyard was harvested in 16 separate lots; portions of three were used for the final blend.

Merlot: .2%, grown on our Hillview Estate

Barrels: 100% new French oak

Aging: 22 months in barrel; 14 months in bottle before release



96
PTS

“The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is sourced from choice blocks on the Groth family’s Oakville property. A gorgeous, classically built wine, the Reserve is just fabulous today. Dark red-toned fruit, cedar, spice and mocha lend considerable energy as the 2018 gradually opens in the glass.”

— Antonio Galloni, Vinous

ACCOLADES

96 pts, Wine Spectator

96 pts, Antonio Galloni, Vinous