



Groth

RECENT PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2020

ROOTED IN OAKVILLE



Wine Enthusiast

Virginie Boone

***Six consecutive years
of 90+ ratings***

2014 vintage 91 pts

2015 vintage 90 pts

2016 vintage 91 pts

2017 vintage 92 pts

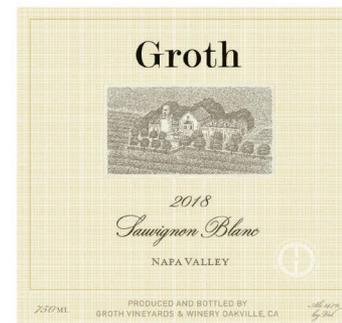
2018 vintage 92 pts

2019 vintage 92 pts, Editors' Choice

AS SEEN IN FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

WINE ENTHUSIAST[®] BUYING GUIDE

92 points



92 **Groth 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** With 14% Sémillon in the blend, this is a fleshy, robust white that displays tropical fruit and oak in equal measure. Rich and creamy, it appeals in tangerine, mango and Tahitian vanilla, lifted by vibrant acidity. —V.B.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$24



Wine Enthusiast & James Suckling

Six consecutive years of 90+ ratings

2013 vintage: 91 pts, Wine Enthusiast

2014 vintage: 91 pts, Wine Enthusiast

2015 vintage: 91 pts, James Suckling

2016 vintage: 90 pts, Wine Enthusiast

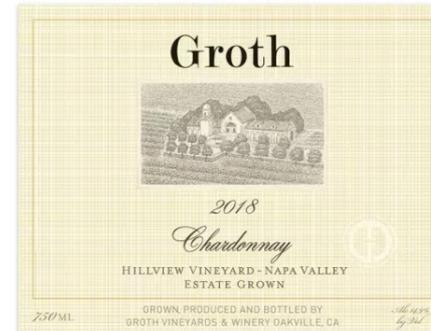
2017 vintage: 91 pts, Wine Enthusiast

2018 vintage:

90 pts, Wine Spectator

90 pts & Editors' Choice, Wine Enthusiast

90 pts, James Suckling



GROTH

Chardonnay Napa Valley Hillview Vineyard 2018

Score: 90 | \$35

WS review: Vibrant and well-structured, with a savory essence to the apple, pear and quince paste flavors. Sea salt and dried tarragon accents emerge on the crisp finish. Drink now through 2024. 7,350 cases made.—*K.M.*

WINE ENTHUSIAST

90
POINTS

Editors' Choice

Groth 2018 Hillview Vineyard
Estate Grown Chardonnay
(Napa Valley)

This wine offers creamy elements of melon and stone fruit. It has a richness of pronounced oak that works well with the soft texture and overriding opulence.

— **V.B.** Published 4/1/2020

JAMES SUCKLING.COM



GROTH CHARDONNAY NAPA
VALLEY HILLVIEW VINEYARD
2018

Attractive fresh pears and apples follow to a fresh palate with bright, pear-pastry and lemon flavors on offer. Drink now.



vinOUS 91 pts

Groth's 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon is a powerful, hearty wine with good depth and density, but very much in the classic, mid-weight Groth style. Dark cherry, pomegranate, smoke, tobacco, menthol, licorice and dried flowers are nicely delineated in this attractive, expressive Cabernet Sauvignon. Give the 2015 a few years in bottle for the tannin to soften.

Decanter

Highly Recommended 93 pts

Groth, Oakville, Napa Valley

Deep, concentrated nose busting with ripe black fruit concentration and herbal undertones. Fresh fruit palate, with a touch of oak spice and violets. Dec 2019

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



GROTH CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE 2015

This shows real interest on the nose with fresh blackcurrants, ivy, tea leaf, vanilla, cloves and peppermint. Freshness comes through aplenty on the palate, which is full-bodied with structured if chewy tannins, some pretty acidity and a driven finish. Blend of 85% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot. Drink in 2020.



Wine&Spirits

94 pts

Cameron Parry found his Cabernet vines ripened their fruit in 2016 at Brix levels that were lower than usual, sustaining acidity in the grapes. They produced a young and luscious Oakville Cabernet, the wine integrating the oak and fruit tannins in a way that supercharges its flavors. Rather than weighing the wine down, the structure empowers it, presenting the plummy blue fruit, scents of cassis and fruity-umami notes of mushrooms that last, gracious, gentle and refined.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

93

POINTS

Editors' Choice

**Groth 2016 Cabernet
Sauvignon (Oakville)**

Blended with 9% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, this Cabernet opens with earthy aromas of tar, sage and cedar. It expands on the palate to show an elegant structure of finessed, supple tannins alongside layers of clove and cinnamon atop ripe red and black berries.

— V.B. *Published 9/1/2020*



Wine Spectator

92

GROTH
Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2016

A hint of singed savory leads off, turning quickly to a core of raspberry and mulberry fruit, lined with alluring tea, sanguine and iron notes. Offers fine-grained grip and should unwind nicely in the cellar. Drink now through 2030. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 27,000 cases made. (Aug 31, 2019)

WineSpectator.com

JAMESSUCKLING.COM

92 PTS.
JAMESSUCKLING.COM

**GROTH CABERNET
SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY
OAKVILLE 2016**

A very plush and ripe, forthright style with abundant ripe plum and berry aromas, leading to a berry-flavored palate, laced with dark chocolate and vanilla. Drink or hold.



vinOUS 95 pts

2015 Groth Cabernet Sauvignon
Reserve

The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is fabulous. Rich and unctuous in the glass, but without losing its classic feel, the Reserve conveys the richness of the vintage nicely. Black cherry, crème de cassis, smoke, licorice and sweet spice infuse the resonant, super-inviting finish. What a beautiful wine this is.

-- Antonio Galloni

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



GROTH CABERNET SAUVIGNON
NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE RESERVE
2015

Coffee beans, eucalyptus, blackberry bush, pressed violets, slate and vanilla. Very full with bold tannins, lots of oak influence, grainy sweet fruit and a chewy finish. Verges on too much but comes together at the end. Needs lots of time. A blend of 99% cabernet sauvignon and 1% merlot. Drink in 2021.



WINE ENTHUSIAST

93
POINTS

Cellar Selection

Groth 2015 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville)

Plum, clove and tobacco mark this distinct reserve-worthy red, made from the producer's own estate-reserve block.

Inviting floral aromatics entice equally, underlining its understated elegance and class. Black licorice lines thick, grippy tannin and oak, suggesting ample time for cellaring. Enjoy 2025–2030.

— V.B. *Published 4/1/2019*

Wine & Spirits

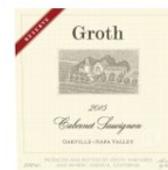
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94 | Groth

2015 Oakville Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Groth's Reserve Block runs north from Oakville Cross Road along the eastern bank of Conn Creek, just under 28 acres replanted in 1999 and 2001. The vines produced a bold, luscious beauty in 2015, defining Oakville in its rich dimensions, held in check by proper harmonies in the tannins (think Presbyterian church music, clear and resolute). The fresh fruit flavors of blueberries and plums have exceptional length, ample and energized, while the warmth of the wine begins to show after several days open. Lovely to drink on release, this should develop well over the next several years.

Reviewed by Joshua Greene.



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THE
tastingpanel
MAGAZINE

Groth 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon, Reserve, Oakville, Napa **93**

Smooth and creamy with luscious, tangy style, this is a long, linear wine with subtle elegance and finesse from a family-owned and –operated winery.

– Anthony Dias Blue, *January-February 2019*



WINE ENTHUSIAST
94
POINTS
Cellar Selection

Groth 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville)

With 9% Merlot in the blend, this wine was given 22 months in 100% new French oak and is built to last. Softly layered in cassis, it shows lifted acidity and graceful, firm tannins. Spicy nutmeg and clove season the fruit, adding length and complexity. Enjoyed 2026-2031.

— V.B. Published 9/1/2020

vinous (91-94)_{pts}

Groth 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

Oakville, Napa Valley

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

Tasted just prior to bottling, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is shaping up beautifully. Licorice, smoke, menthol, sage and lavender add layers of complexity to this very pretty, understated Cabernet. The 2016 has quite a bit of power and resonance that will emerge post-bottling, and yet the style is very much built on a mid-weight, classic sense of structure. Above all else, I admire the balance Director of Winemaking Cameron Parry was able to achieve. I can't wait to taste this from bottle.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: November 2018

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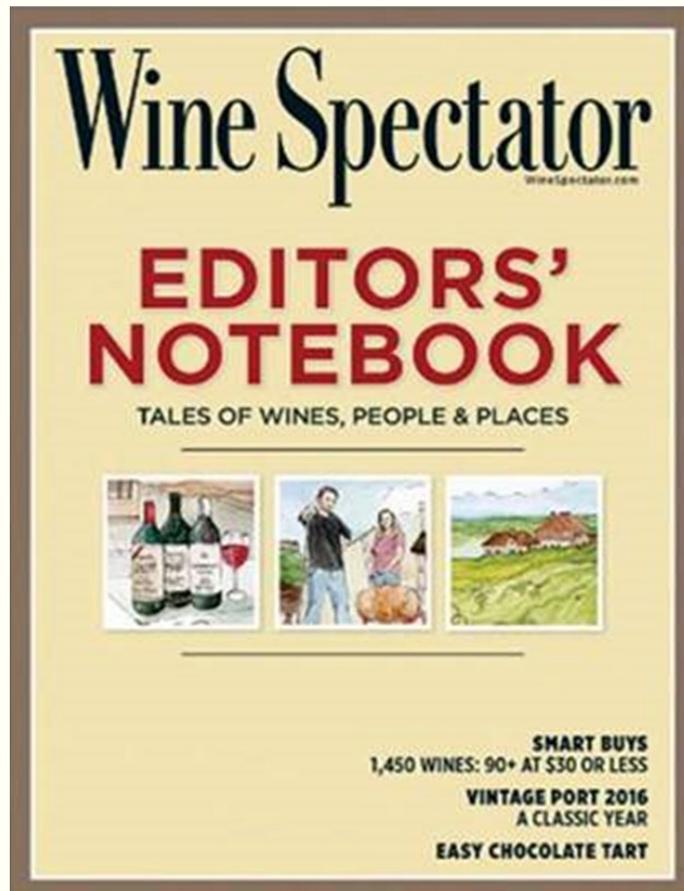
JAMES SUCKLING.COM 

93 PTS.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 

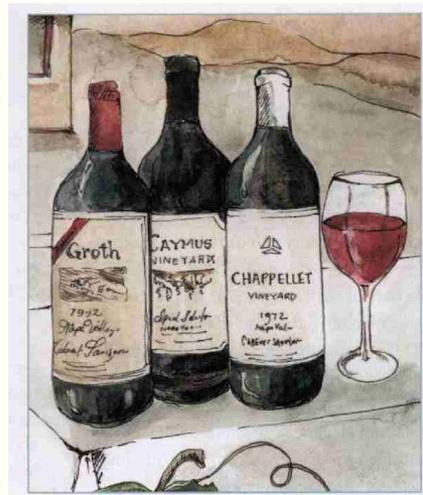
GROTH CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE RESERVE 2016

This offers attractive, ripe black-cherry and plum aromas, leading to a palate that has a plush, fleshy and supple array of smooth, soft and ripe blackcurrant flavors. This has more to come. Try from 2020.



“I splurged on a bottle of **Groth Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve** from 1992, a sneaky good year... This wine was perfectly on point for me...singed herb and wood notes provided detail to the mature currant fruit core, with a whiff of smoke curling through the finish.”

*James Molesworth, Wine Spectator
February 2019*





“Moving up into the valley, the Oakville AVA showed why it is hallowed ground. Home to prominent vineyards such as To Kalon, the AVA covers the breadth of the valley from east to west, resulting in some style differences. **But the sweet spot is the center fillet around the Oakville Grade Road and up into the western edge. From here, the Groth Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2016 (92, \$65) is as good a deal as you can find in Napa Cabernet, offering a hint of singed savory and a core of raspberry and mulberry fruit lined with alluring tea, sanguine and iron notes.**” James Molesworth

GROTH

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Reserve 2016

Score: 96 | \$150

WS Review: This delivers a very tightly focused, almost piercing beam of cassis, raspberry coulis and bitter cherry fruit. Long and refined.



STIRRING THE LEES WITH JAMES MOLESWORTH

Groth at the Cross Road

A vertical tasting of Groth's Cabernet Napa Reserve back to the 1980s reveals consistency and growth

James Molesworth

Apr 24, 2019

After my visit at Ovid, atop Pritchard Hill, I stuck to the valley floor for my next. The differences couldn't be starker, but it's that dichotomy that makes Napa Cabernet so fascinating. Ovid has 15 acres of vines struggling on scraggy volcanic rock. **At Groth, located on the filet mignon of Napa Valley, the Oakville Cross Road, there are 121 acres of vines seemingly gorging themselves on deep loam and gravel.** And yet both make compelling wines.

When Dennis and Judy Groth bought a property in Napa Valley in 1981, it was meant to be a retirement spot. Dennis was working in the Bay Area for Atari during its heyday and he didn't know anything about farming, but he did like the property, which had some vines planted by Justin Meyer in the early '70s. As Groth kicked around during his spare time he hired Ben Benson to replace the fading vines and expand the vineyard a bit. The plan was to sell off the fruit. A small amount was bottled under the Groth name, debuting in 1982. A second property of 44 acres was purchased that same year.

But when Atari crashed in the mid-eighties, the "retirement" plan was accelerated and Groth moved his family up to Napa. And when the market for buying grapes didn't materialize the way Groth expected, plan B became to make all the wine themselves. By 1985, with Nils Venge as winemaker, Groth was cranking out 30,000 cases of wine. A winery was built in 1990 to keep up with the growing production and in '94 Michael Weis replaced Venge as winemaker. Weis oversaw another large-scale replanting started in 1998 during which time production dropped. By 2001 the vineyard was back on an upward trajectory ...

It was Venge who isolated the first reserve block for its potential for Cabernet. There is some soil variation on the site, and a cooler corner where Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon are grown. There's some Merlot, too. But it's the reserve blocks (there are now two) that have earned Groth its reputation. The reserve blocks total 27.5 acres—nearly twice the total of Ovid's entire vineyard.

Cameron Parry is head of winegrowing now. Parry joined in 2014, after a stint at Chateau Montelena, and was promoted in '16, with Weis earning the winemaker emeritus title. Dennis and Judy's daughter Suzanne, who essentially grew up on the property, is the winery's president.

View the entire article and video clip at <https://www.winespectator.com/articles/groth-california-napa-cabernet-2019-vertical-tasting>



Ranked

4

GROTH

**Cabernet Sauvignon
Oakville Reserve 2016**



← WINE #5

TOP 10

WINE #3 →

Groth

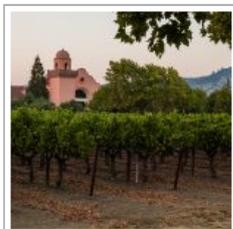
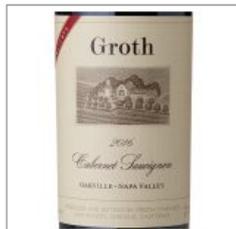
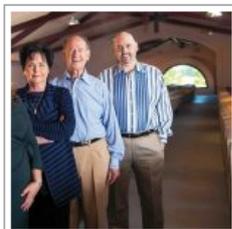
Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Reserve 2016

96
Score

\$150
Price

4,800
Cases Made

Groth owns 121 acres smack in the middle of Napa's coveted Oakville AVA. Founded by Dennis and Judy Groth in 1982, the Oakville estate has endured some ups and downs, including a large-scale replant that resulted in the absence of a Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve from its lineup from 2000 to 2004. The vineyard is now in its prime, and the reserve blocks total 27.5 acres, generating a focused and refined Cabernet with an intense, fruit-driven core. Winemaker Cameron Parry ferments in stainless steel and presses before full dryness, lending a sweet fruit quality to the wine. He then ages it in 100 percent new oak for 22 months.



Groth at the Cross Road

With new talent, new tech and a replanted vineyard reaching maturity, Groth has been making strides with Napa Valley floor Cabernet. Here's a look at how the winery and the wines have evolved.

A Benchmark Year: Annual California Cabernet Report

California caps a string of five superb Cabernet Sauvignon vintages with 2016—and it may be the best of the batch. *Wine Spectator* reviewed nearly 600 wines for this report from Napa, Sonoma and beyond. Check out which bottles stole the show.

Find a Great Match for Oakville Napa Cabernet

Find 1,300-plus dishes for wine in our Recipe Search, like this easy grilled steak with chimichurri sauce, a great partner to a Napa Cabernet from the prestigious Oakville AVA.

[See the Top 100 Lists](#)



- 1985 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #19 in 1990 95 points
- 1990 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #20 in 1994 94 points
- 1991 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon #95 in 1994 90 points
- 1992 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #2 in 1996 98 points
- 1992 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon #37 in 1995 91 points
- 1994 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #11 in 1998 96 points
- 1997 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon #79 in 2000 92 points
- 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon #4 in 2019 96 points



50 Top Napa Producers List — *Wine Spectator*, June 2020

Groth – James Molesworth Instagram (24.2K followers)



“The Reserve Cabernet (shown here) is back, baby. **Groth is located on the filet mignon of Napa Valley, the Oakville Cross Road, with 121 acres of vines situated on deep loam and gravel soils.**

Bonus info: In the 1980s and early '90s, Groth Reserve was essentially a cult wine. But the vineyard blocks were torn out in 1999 and the wine went on hiatus until 2005. It takes time for a vineyard to mature and settle in. As it does, the fruit becomes more consistent and typically higher in quality. So as the Reserve bottling came back on line it took some time for the wine to reassert itself too. **The 2016 is the culmination of this evolution, earning 96 points and putting the Groth Reserve back on top**

Pair with: Red meat is the easy call, but with this wine's savory aspect I think duck is a better choice. A breast slowly roasted over thyme and alder.

As for the music, I think LL Cool J "Mama Said Knock You Out" (1990) fits the bills. After all, don't call it a comeback, because some things from the way back '90s have been here for years..."



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Gillian Sciaretta of *Wine Spectator* appeared on the Fox Business show **Mornings with Maria** on December 27 to discuss holiday wines and the Top 100. Groth 2016 Reserve Cabernet was displayed with the Top 5 wines on air.

Yahoo Finance also aired a segment on the Top 5 wines on December 20.