



# 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>



# 2021 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

*Oakville, Napa Valley*

## VINTAGE

Harvest began on September 20th, it was a smooth and evenly paced, without as many heat spikes as we've seen in recent Napa Valley vintages. Milder weather meant we could pick more gradually, and it gave the grapes plenty of time to ripen and develop deep color and flavor. Continuing drought meant the vines struggled to access water, and the result was smaller clusters and berries yielding wines with intense flavors.

## THE WINE

**Blending:** All the Cabernet from our Reserve Vineyard was harvested in 6 separate lots; portions of three were used for the final blend.

**Merlot:** 2%, grown on our Hillview Estate

**Barrels:** 100% new French oak

**Ageing:** 22 months in barrel; 14 months in bottle before release



96  
PTS

*“Ripe, defined and very sleek, this delivers a pure beam of cassis, blackberry puree and black licorice flavors framed by notes of singed apple wood and sweet tobacco. Savory, wet slate and warm earth notes chime in, while latent energy drives the finish. This should emerge steadily with cellaring, with a long life ahead.”*

—James Molesworth  
Wine Spectator

## ACCOLADES

96 pts, Decanter  
95 pts, Wine Advocate  
94+ pts, Jeb Dunnuck  
94 pts, James Suckling