



Groth, Oakville, Napa Valley 2017

MCK 95 JD 95 SN 95
 £79.95 *The Wine Treasury*
 Dennis and Judy Groth bought their first vineyards at Oakville in 1981, and today second-generation Suzanne Groth is at the helm as president and CEO. Sourced from estate vineyards and partner growers within the Oakville AVA, the 2017 is made up of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, harvested at night and hand-sorted, then fermented at the Oakville winery and aged in French oak barrels for 18 months, 40% new. **MCK** Fresh red and black fruit on nose and palate, oak adds

some nuances. Tannins firm yet balanced with fresh acidity. **JD** Fresh, lifted berry aromas, strawberry and blackcurrant flavours with mint, coffee and chocolate. Medium-bodied, fresh acidity, well balanced and refreshingly elegant. **SN** Concentration with some serious power and drive. Blue and black berry perfume does a lovely job of taking over on the palate and adding complexity and energy to it. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 14.6%



Peter Franus, Brandlin Vineyard, Mount Veeder, Napa Valley 2018

MCK 96 JD 93 SN 96
 £73-£75 *ABS Wines, Hedonism*
 Peter Franus first made an own-label wine back in 1987, continuing as winemaker for Mount Veeder Winery and subsequently Franciscan until striking out on his own from 1992. From the early 2000s he decided to focus more on the best vineyard sites and produce less wine of better quality. In 2016, he returned to his early winemaking roots to make a first Cabernet Sauvignon from Brandlin vineyard under his own name. The Cabernet block

sits on a hilltop ridge, and the 2018 vintage is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in 65% new French oak barrels. **MCK** Mint and fresh berry aromatics. Crisp, well balanced, tannins, firm yet fine-grained. Good degree of elegance. **JD** Coffee-vanilla aromas, rich and concentrated, savoury and herbal with roasted meat notes. **SN** High intensity of floral notes with some blue plum and a tick of herbal, lavender-like aspects. With a good velvety structure, this has a soft and mellow finish. **Drink** 2022-2040 **Alc** 14.6%

Highly recommended 90-94pts



Revana, Terroir Series, Napa Valley 2018

MCK 93 JD 94 SN 91
 POA *Vineyard Cellars*
 Lifted nose showing aromas of crème de cassis, plums and hints of mint and vanilla. Full-bodied with grainy tannins, ending in a stony finish. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 15%



Diamond Creek, Red Rock Terrace, Diamond Mountain District, Napa Valley 2018

MCK 95 JD 89 SN 93
 £230-£295 *Harvey Nichols, Petersham Cellar, Philglas & Swiggot*
 Cumin and black pepper, black fruits, lavender, hints of mint roasted meat, clove and smoke. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 14.5%



Groth, Oakville, Napa Valley 2018

MCK 91 JD 94 SN 91
 £79.95 *Museum Wines, Nysa, Redwood Wines, The Wine Treasury*
 Intense scents of herbs, ripe black fruit, boysenberries, leather and woodsmoke. Spicy palate, vibrant acidity, balanced and layered. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 14.6%



La Jota, Howell Mountain, Napa Valley 2018

MCK 93 JD 92 SN 92
 US\$150 *lajotavineyardco.com*
 Fragrant aromatics of ripe black fruit, sweet liquorice, dried sage and rosemary, coffee. Sweet black fruit on the palate with firm, fine tannins. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 15%



Michel Rolland, MR, Napa Valley 2017

MCK 91 JD 92 SN 92
michelrollandnapavalley.com
 Minty black fruit aromas. Broad and powerful style with serious dark fruit at the core and earthy undertones. Savoury finish. **Drink** 2022-2035 **Alc** 15.8%



Mt Brave, Mount Veeder, Napa Valley 2018

MCK 90 JD 93 SN 92
 US\$100 *mtbravewines.com*
 Delicate nuances of clove, thyme, ripe red and black berries and hints of smoke. Vibrant and mineral, with grainy tannins. Lovely. **Drink** 2022-2038 **Alc** 14.5%