

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

# Robb Report

30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
**BEST  
OF THE  
BEST**

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JUNE 2018

# Grand Grapes

The most delicious and worthy wines released over the last year.

DOMESTIC  
WHITE

## Lail Vineyards 2015 Georgia Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley



Against the backdrop of noble old-world Sauvignon Blanc traditions (white Bordeaux, the Loire Valley), California Sauvignon Blancs have diversified into a confusing range of styles, from herb and mineral driven to ripe and generously fruited, variously influenced by stainless steel and oak. But an echelon has emerged—primarily in Napa Valley—that takes full advantage of pedigreed vineyard land and painstaking winemaking, with results that make one pause and think as much as any complex Cabernet makes one pause and think.

Lail Vineyards Georgia is Exhibit A. Deeply rooted in Napa history—Robin Lail's great-granduncle was Captain Gustave Niebaum, founder of Inglenook Estate—with serious industry credentials (Dominus, Merryvale) behind her own name, Lail is producing red and white Bordeaux-style wines under the aegis of consulting winemaker Philippe Melka.

Her 2015 Georgia Sauvignon Blanc, from the Tuten Estate Vineyard in Yountville, channels white Graves with extensive time in oak but forges a Napa path, integrating that oak with vibrant fruit. In the glass, a full range of citrus morphs and changes places with melon, stone fruit, and tropicals, cloaked in complex textures from regular stirring of the lees. (\$158)

[lailvineyards.com](http://lailvineyards.com)  
—SARA SCHNEIDER



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