

GRGICH HILLS



GOLD MEDALS!
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Napa Valley MERLOT

ESTATE 2003 GROWN

VINTAGE: Bud break came early in 2003, followed by a cool and wet spring that slowed down development. After a long, steady growing season, a few heat spikes in September accelerated ripening, which were followed by days of cool weather, so we had a stop-and-go harvest. We started picking individual blocks of Merlot on September 21 and finished eight days later.

VINEYARD: We blend grapes from four of our organically-grown estate Napa Valley vineyards to create this 100% Merlot. The majority of our grapes come from our cool American Canyon and Carneros vineyards, which contribute bright fruit and structure while the Merlot from our warmer vineyards in Yountville and Calistoga adds texture and elegance. By blending wine from different growing regions within Napa Valley, we create a complex, balanced Merlot.

THE WINE: Estate grown means the grapes came entirely from our own vineyards, so we have total control of the quality from the vine to the bottle. The wine's perfect marriage of ripe fruit and French oak barrels creates a bouquet of cherry and black berry with hints of cedar and spice. In the mouth this Merlot has a generous, soft, smooth texture that hugs your tongue and the flavors linger in your mouth for a long, long time. This is a Merlot that will gain in complexity and silkiness with age.

Winemaker's Notes

Alcohol	14.3% by volume
Fermentation	indigenous yeast
Harvest date	September 21-29, 2003
Sugar	25 degrees Brix
Bottling date	May 17, 2005
Release date	December 2006
Total acid	5.78 g/L
pH	3.56
Time in oak	18 months
Type of oak	mixture of large and small French oak barrels; 50% new barrels
Production	3,798 cases (12/750 ml.) 100 cases (12/375 ml.)
Blend	100% Merlot



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