GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY

2006 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: Starting with a wet winter and spring that delayed budbreak and led into a slow, even, ripening of the grapes, 2006 was a relatively cool vintage. A heat spike in July helped the grapes catch up to a normal physiological ripeness, followed by an unusually cool August that allowed the grapes to completely ripen without dehydrating. Thanks to our organic and Biodynamic® farming, the vines remained healthy throughout the temperature swings, providing us with fully ripe, flavorful grapes.

VINEYARD: All of our vineyards are certified organic and Biodynamic, a holistic farming practice that uses the earth's cycles and natural preparations to grow balanced, healthy vines without artificial fertilizers, pesticides, or fungicides. We blended Merlot grapes from four of our five vineyards, with just a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon to add complexity. By blending wine from four distinctive growing regions within Napa Valley, we crafted a complex, balanced Merlot.

THE WINE: This is a Cabernet lovers' Merlot! Full-bodied and complex, this wine displays flavors of cherries, blackberries and a hint of dried herbs on the finish. Its rich mouthfeel and food-friendly acidity make it the perfect partner with beef tenderloin, rack of lamb or roasted pork.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol	14.5% by volume
Fermentation	indigenous yeast
Harvest date	Sept. 23 to Oct. 11, 2006
Sugar	24.8° Brix (average)
Bottling date	July 21, 2008
Release date	June 2010
Total acid	5.8 g/L
pH	3.54
Time in oak	18 months
Type of oak	mixture of large and small French oak barrels; 30% new
Production	5,250 cases (12/750 ml.) 600 cases (12/375 ml.)
Blend	98% Merlot: 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

DEMETER CERTIFIED BIODYNAMIC®

P.O. Box 450 • 1829 St. Helena Hwy. • Rutherford, CA 94573
Tel: (707) 963-2784 • Fax: (707) 963-8725 • www.grgich.com