

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



2008 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: From budbreak through harvest we didn't see a drop of rain, making 2008 one of the driest years since we began in 1977. Frost threatened the new buds through April, but then we enjoyed a steady, relatively cool growing season until a heat spike at the end August jump-started harvest. The lack of rain reduced the yield but created concentrated flavors.

VINEYARD: Committed to natural winegrowing and sustainability, we farm our five estate vineyards without artificial fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides, and they are certified organic and Biodynamic®. We blended Merlot grapes from our vineyards in four distinctive growing regions within Napa Valley, creating a complex, balanced wine that is more than the sum of its parts.

THE WINE: This is a Cabernet lovers' Merlot! With wonderful complex aromas of cranberries, cedar and toasted hazelnuts, this wine's firm tannins 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. 5 - Oct. 10, 2008
Sugar25° Brix (average)
Bottling date....June 8, 2010
Release date....Winter 2012
Total acid6.0 g/L
pH3.52
Time in oak.....18 months
Type of oak.....mixture of large and
 small French oak
 barrels; 30% new
Production.....3,117 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend100% Merlot