

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



2011 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: Thanks to the cool weather and unexpected rains, 2011 was a demanding but, in the end, rewarding vintage for us. The wet winter and spring delayed the start of bloom and then cool temperatures slowed grape development, pushing the start of harvest back by two weeks. More reminiscent of France than Napa Valley, this vintage fashioned elegant wines with great aromatics, and the lower level of sugars from the cool growing season translated into lower alcohol.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....13.5% by volume
Fermentation...indigenous yeast
Skin contact.....average 22 days
Harvest date....October 14-31, 2011
Sugar23.8° Brix (average)
Bottling date....March 6, 2013
Release date.....May 2015
Total acid5.5 g/L
pH3.61
Time in oak.....18 months
Type of oak.....mixture of large and
 small French oak
 barrels; 30% new
Production.....2,467 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend100% Merlot

VINEYARD: This cool climate Merlot is grown in our vineyards in southern Napa Valley, within sight of the San Francisco Bay. We blended in a small amount of Merlot from our warmer upper Napa Valley vineyards to craft a complex, balanced wine. Committed to natural winegrowing and sustainability, we farm our five estate vineyards without artificial fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides, and they are certified organic.

THE WINE: This is a Cabernet lover's Merlot! Its complex flavors of red currant, black licorice and hint of savory herbs are wrapped in a velvety texture that leave your taste buds asking for more! The wine's firm tannins and vibrant acidity create the perfect partner with prime rib, rack of lamb or roasted pork.