

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....14.9% by volume
Fermentation...indigenous yeast
Skin contact.....average 22 days
Harvest date....Sept. 26 - Oct. 21, 2012
Sugar25.6° Brix (average)
Bottling date....March 27, 2014
Release date.....December 2015
Total acid5.7 g/L
pH3.68
Time in oak.....18 months
Type of oak.....French oak barrels;
30% new;
70% neutral
Production.....5,040 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend95% Merlot
5% Cab. Sauvignon

2012 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: We enjoyed a wonderful growing season from start to finish in 2012. A gentle spring allowed for textbook flowering and fruit set, followed by a long procession of warm, sunny days with no nasty heat spikes. Thanks to the excellent weather, the longer-than-average growing season produced perfectly balanced and ripe grapes.

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 and Cabernet Sauvignon 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 bright flavors of strawberries, cherries, licorice and a hint of coffee are wrapped in a velvety texture that make your taste buds ask for more! The wine's firm tannins and vibrant acidity create the perfect partner with beef tenderloin, rack of lamb, duck and barbecued pork.