

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

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| 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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