

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



2005 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: The 2005 vintage benefited from a long, cool growing season. The year began with heavy rains, and then a spell of 80-degree weather in early March triggered budbreak. The generally cool summer allowed the grapes to ripen smoothly and completely, without any major heat spikes to confuse them.

VINEYARD: Our Yountville vineyard forms the backbone of our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, with our Rutherford and Calistoga vineyards rounding out the blend. All vineyards were farmed following organic and Biodynamic® principles. This holistic farming practice uses the earth's cycles and natural preparations to grow balanced, healthy vines without artificial fertilizers, pesticides, or fungicides. The result is a full-bodied, elegant Cabernet Sauvignon with pure flavors and a pronounced sense of place.

THE WINE: We fermented the grapes using only yeasts that naturally occur on the grapes and allowed the wine to gain flavors and color from extended skin contact. We aged each lot separately for several months, and then created a blend that is more complex than the individual parts. After blending, the wine spent another year and half in barrel for these different components to completely harmonize before bottling.

The consistently cool and even ripening of the grapes produced an elegant wine with aromas of black fruit and licorice with a touch of black pepper on the finish. Nicely balanced between acid, fruit and tannin, this wine is the perfect partner with roasted beef, cured ham or creamy cheeses.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol..... 14.7% by volume
Fermentation.... indigenous yeast;
5 weeks of skin contact
Harvest date..... October 7-22, 2005
Sugar 25.3° Brix
Bottling date..... July 30, 2007
Release date..... Summer 2008
Total acid 6.0 g/L
pH 3.73
Time in oak 21 mos. in French oak
Type of oak..... 60% new French oak
Production..... 14,520 cases (12/750 ml.)
1,522 cases (12/375 ml.)
500 cases (6/1.5 L)
300 bottles (3 L)
25 bottles (6 L)
6 bottles (9 L)
Blend 93% Cabernet Sauvignon;
2% Merlot; 3% Cabernet
Franc; 2% Petit Verdot

