

# GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



## 2009 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

**VINTAGE:** For the third year in a row, Napa Valley received only two-thirds of its average rainfall in 2009, which reduced crop levels somewhat. Spring was essentially frost-free, and a relatively cool summer with no drastic heat surges brought smooth, even grape development. Just before harvest a few days of heat ensured perfect ripeness and allowed a leisurely harvest.

**VINEYARD:** Our cool climate Merlot comes from our vineyards in southern Napa Valley grown 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 and Biodynamic®.

**THE WINE:** This is a Cabernet lovers' Merlot! Its bright strawberries, cherries, and black pepper with a velvety mouthfeel make you ask for more! The wine's firm tannins and vibrant acidity create the perfect partner with beef tenderloin, rack of lamb, or roasted pork.

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....14.8% by volume  
Fermentation...indigenous yeast  
Harvest date....Sept. 19 - Oct. 10, 2009  
Sugar .....25.3° Brix (average)  
Bottling date....June 7, 2011  
Release date....Fall 2013  
Total acid .....5.5 g/L  
pH .....3.63  
Time in oak.....18 months  
Type of oak.....mixture of large and  
                    small French oak  
                    barrels; 30% new  
Production.....4,723 cases (12/750 ml.)  
Blend .....100% Merlot