GRGICH HILLS ESTATE
NAPA VALLEY

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol	13.5% by volume
Fermentation	indigenous yeast
Skin contact	average 22 days
Harvest date	October 14-31, 2011
Sugar	23.8° Brix (average)
Bottling date	March 6, 2013
Release date	May 2015
Total acid	5.5 g/L
pH	3.61
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.)
Blend	100% Merlot

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.

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.

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