GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol	14.8% by volume
Fermentation	indigenous yeast; pressed off skins early to retain fruit character
Harvest date	September 23, 2008
Sugar	25.5° Brix (average)
Bottling date	June 13, 2011
Release date	December 2012
Total acid	6.2 g/L
pH	3.57
Time in oak	32 months
Type of oak	oak casks
Production	471 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend	100% Petite Sirah

MILJENKO'S VINEYARD

2008 PETITE SIRAH

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: From budbreak through harvest we didn't see a drop of rain, making 2008 one of the driest years since we began in 1977. Frost threatened the new buds through April. Then, we enjoyed a steady, relatively cool growing season until a heat spike at the end August jump-started harvest. Because we received less precipitation, the grapes were smaller, reducing yield but giving us concentrated flavors.

VINEYARD: The grapes for this wine were grown at Miljenko's Vineyard which, as are all of our vineyards, we farm naturally without artificial pesticides or herbicides, and the grapes are certified organic and Biodynamic®. Miljenko "Mike" Grgich's home overlooks this 34-acre vineyard in Calistoga which is the warmest of our five vineyards. Petite Sirah is also known as the French varietal Durif, which is a cross between the ancient French grapes Peloursin and Syrah.

THE WINE: We used open-top fermenters to integrate oxygen with Petite Sirah's sturdy tannins, and then aged the wine for almost three years in a mix of oak barrels sizes: 50% in foudres (large 600 gallon barrels), 25% in 164 gallon puncheons, and the remaining 25% in neutral French barrels to soften and smooth the tannins.

This 100% Petite Sirah has intense aromas and flavors of black cherry, dried herbs and a hint of cedar with elegant tannins that will only become more complex and smoother with age. Match this big wine with equally substantial flavors such as lamb stew, grilled steak, or aged cheeses. This wine will benefit from decanting an hour before serving.

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