

# GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



## 2016 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

**VINTAGE:** The string of near perfect vintages continued for the fifth year in 2016, with an early bud break and flowering followed by sunny days and relatively mild temperatures throughout the growing season. We were able to have almost all our grapes safely in the cellar before the valley's first significant fall rainstorm arrived on October fourteenth.

**VINEYARD:** Our Merlot grows both in our cooler American Canyon and Carneros vineyards and in our warmer Yountville vineyard. We blended Merlot from all three vineyards to create a balanced, robust wine that combines the richness and depth from the warmer climates and perfume and bright fruitiness from the cooler climates. 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 robust Merlot will delight Cabernet Sauvignon lovers! On the nose, this Merlot offers layers of fruit – blueberry, raspberry and cherry. The palate is elegantly structured with mouth-watering tannins and sprightly, well-balanced acidity. The fruit-forward berries on the nose reemerge on the palate with savory undertones of basil and rosemary. This harmonious wine displays a lasting and memorable finish. Pair it with grilled flank steak, lamb burgers or veal chops.

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....14.6% by volume  
Fermentation....indigenous yeast  
Skin contact.....2 weeks in stainless steel  
Harvest date....Sept. 22 - 27, 2016  
Sugar .....24.7° Brix (average)  
Bottling date....August 2018  
Release date.....November 2019  
Total acid .....6.2 g/L  
pH .....3.55  
Time in oak.....21 months  
Type of oak.....French oak 60-gallon barrels; 25% new; 75% neutral  
Production 3,740 cases (12/750 ml.)  
Blend .....92% Merlot  
5% Cabernet Sauvignon  
3% Cabernet Franc