

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



MILJENKO'S OLD VINE
2016 ZINFANDEL
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: Miljenko "Mike" Grgich's home in Calistoga overlooks our small vineyard where the few rows of ancient Zinfandel vines that produce this wine were planted more than 100 years ago on St. George rootstock. Its northeast exposure catches plenty of morning light but is shaded from the hot, late afternoon sun while the vineyard's gravelly loam soil allows the extensive roots to reach deep. We farm all our vineyards naturally, without artificial pesticides or herbicides, and they are certified organic.

THE WINE: Baroque in the best sense, this Zinfandel has a dense mix of herbaceous and fruit forward aromatics of berry preserve, dried orange peel and candied mandarin. On the palate, a complexity of dark fruit, berry preserve, licorice, mint, oregano and applewood smoked bacon abound. The long finish is tied together beautifully by fresh acidity and well-integrated oak notes. This old vine Zinfandel is a poet of a wine. Pair it with *ćevapčići* (Croatian sausages), rack of lamb or steak sandwiches.

Alcohol.....14.3% by volume
Fermentation.. three weeks of skin contact
Harvest date... September 22, 2016
Sugar25° Brix (average)
Bottling date....April 10, 2018
Release date.....November 2019
Total acid5.7 g/L
pH3.86
Time in oak.....18 months
Type of oak.....100% French oak
 25% new barrels
Production.....500 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend95% Zinfandel
 5% Petite Sirah