

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



2012 NAPA VALLEY ESSENCE®

VINTAGE: We enjoyed a wonderful vintage from start to finish in 2012, our best since 2005. A gentle spring allowed for textbook perfect flowering and fruit set, followed by a long procession of warm, sunny days with no nasty heat spikes. Thanks to the excellent weather, the longer-than-average growing season and generally cool vintage produced wonderfully balanced and ripe grapes.

VINEYARD: Only the best blocks that express the true nature—the essence—of our Sauvignon Blanc are used for this limited production wine. The grapes come primarily from our chilly American Canyon Vineyard, supplemented by grapes from our Carneros Vineyard, where the cool climate and thin soils limit vigor, producing fewer grapes but more intense flavor. We hand harvested the grapes at night into small bins so they arrived at the winery cool and intact, preserving their wonderful flavors and bright acidity.

THE WINE: Using naturally occurring yeasts found on the grapes, we fermented the juice in 1,500-gallon French oak casks that were temperature-controlled for a cool fermentation to retain all of the grapes' delicate aromas. We selected the best lots of the vintage, and then aged the wine nine months in the same large oak casks. Aging in large casks adds another layer of complexity and texture while emphasizing the fruit flavors. Classic flavors of Ruby Red grapefruit, Persian lime, and ripe apricot are supported by mouthwatering minerality. The full mouthfeel, refreshing flavors and lingering finish make it the ideal wine with a goat cheese salad, smoked salmon, sautéed mussels or by itself as an apéritif.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....13.5% by volume
Fermentation...indigenous yeast;
fermented in 1,500
gallon oak casks
Harvest date....Sept. 4-13, 2012
Sugar22.2° Brix (average)
Bottling date....August 22, 2013
Release date....December 2013
Total acid8.4 g/L
pH3.27
Time in oak.....9 months
Type of oak.....large French oak
casks
Production.....722 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend100% Sauvignon
Blanc