GRGICH HILLS ESTATE
NAPA VALLEY

2010 MERLOT
ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: Cool and long sum up the 2010 growing season. Spring brought below-average temperatures with above-average rain, pushing back budbreak by two weeks. The cool temperatures continued into summer allowing for steady but slow grape ripening until a series of heat spikes brought welcomed warmth to ripen grapes to full maturity.

VINEYARD: This cool climate Merlot comes from our vineyards in southern Napa Valley grown 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 and Biodynamic®.

THE WINE: This is a multifaceted Merlot: forest strawberries, spiced plums and anise with a velvety texture that make your taste buds ask for more! The wine's firm tannins and vibrant acidity create the perfect partner with beef tenderloin, rack of lamb or roasted pork.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol	14.8% by volume
Fermentation	indigenous yeast
Skin contact	average 22 days
Harvest date	October 5-23, 2010
Sugar	25.2° Brix (average)
Bottling date	May 8, 2012
Release date	Fall 2014
Total acid	6.1 g/L
pH	3.49
Time in oak	18 months
Type of oak	mixture of large and small French oak barrels; 30% new
Production	3,006 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend	100% Merlot

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