

# GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



## 2015 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

**VINTAGE:** The growing season started out with unseasonably warm temperatures in the late winter and early spring, triggering an early bud break. Colder temperatures in May slowed grape development which, coupled with the fourth year of drought, resulted in a smaller crop in 2015. The harvest was one of our earliest in memory with the berries smaller than usual but packed with flavor and color.

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....14.7% by volume  
Fermentation...indigenous yeast  
Skin contact.....2 weeks in stainless steel  
Harvest date....Sept. 10 - Oct. 16, 2015  
Sugar .....24.7° Brix (average)  
Bottling date....March 28, 2017  
Release date.....Spring 2019  
Total acid .....6.0 g/L  
pH .....3.57  
Time in oak.....18 months  
Type of oak.....French oak 60-gallon barrels; 20% new; 80% neutral  
Production.....3,177 cases (12/750 ml.)  
Blend .....100% Merlot

**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! Its supple, rich texture opens up gracefully in the glass, with inviting aromas of plums, cherries, mixed berries and a subtle waft of violets. Soft plum flavors and hints of lightly toasted oak dance on the palate of this well-balanced and harmonious wine throughout the long-lasting finish. Pair with grilled flank steak, lamb burgers or veal chops.