

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Alcohol.....14.4% by volume
Fermentation...indigenous yeast
Skin contact.....2 weeks in stainless steel
Harvest date....October 8-22, 2018
Sugar24.4° Brix (average)
Bottling date....July 2020
Release date.....April 2021 (375 ml.)
Total acid5.5 g/L
pH3.62
Time in oak.....20 months
Type of oak.....French oak 60-gallon barrels; 37% new; 63% neutral
Production.....4,953 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend100% Merlot

2018 MERLOT

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VINTAGE: The 2018 vintage was bountiful, marked by cool, consistent temperatures and a timely rainfall for bud break in March and April. Harvest began on September tenth, and the grapes were of the highest quality with lower alcohol and high acidity.

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, complex 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 exquisite Merlot opens with aromas of floral rose hip, tangy blood orange and rhubarb with a hint of blackberry, red pepper, and bay leaf. On the palate, a lovely soft entry with plenty of juicy, ripe red fruit is supported by complex, savory undertones. The balanced acid structure and young chalky tannins bring a pleasant freshness, leading to a focused, balanced finish.