

GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY



2020 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: 2020 was a challenging but ultimately one of the most rewarding vintages for us. One of the hottest vintages on record with multiple heat waves well over 100 degrees, vintage 2020 was also accompanied by exceptionally low rainfall: 50-60% below average. Despite the heat and drought, our vines were well prepared for the stress. Due to low rainfall in 2020, the vines prepared themselves for drought by producing less leaves, which requires less water. The heat and drought produced exceptionally low yields but with excellent quality – great acid and freshness in white wines, and beautiful concentration and color in the reds.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES:

Alcohol..... 14.2% by volume
Fermentation ... indigenous yeast;
Skin contact 2 weeks in stainless steel
Harvest date Sept. 23 - Oct. 2, 2020
Sugar..... 24.0° Brix (average)
Bottling date ... June 2022
Release date..... December 2022 (375 ml.)
Total acid 5.9 g/L
pH 3.66
Time in oak..... 20 months
Type of oak French oak; 60-gallon barrels; 37% new; 63% neutral
Production 3,114 cases (12/750 ml.)
Blend..... 93% Merlot
7% Cab. Sauvignon

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. We farm all of our certified organic vineyards naturally, using the principles of regenerative agriculture.

THE WINE: This delicious, versatile wine begins with aromas of blackberry, rose hip, dried cranberries and hints of boysenberry followed by notes of violets and crushed spices. On the palate, the wine begins with a soft, dense, lush, tannin structure supported by flavors of red berry fruit, subtle acidity and a long flavorful, vanilla finish.