

# GRGICH HILLS ESTATE

## NAPA VALLEY



### WINEMAKER'S NOTES:

Alcohol..... 14.3% by volume  
Fermentation... indigenous yeast;  
Skin contact .... 2 weeks in stainless steel  
Harvest date .... Sept. 23 - Oct. 15, 2021  
Sugar..... 23.8° Brix (average)  
Bottling date ... August 2023  
Release date..... October 2024  
Total acid ..... 5.7 g/L  
pH ..... 3.67  
Time in oak..... 20 months  
Type of oak ..... French oak; 60-gallon barrels; 37% new; 63% neutral  
Production ..... 3,800 cases (12/750 ml.)  
Blend..... 81% Merlot  
14% Cab. Sauvignon  
4% Cabernet Franc  
1% Petit Verdot

### REVIEW

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### 2021 MERLOT

ESTATE GROWN • NAPA VALLEY

**VINTAGE:** The growing season was free from severe weather issues, and, despite the drought, our yield increased five percent from 2020. We had no significant rainfall past the month of February, but mild spring and summer conditions provided an ideal environment for grapes to flower, bloom, and set in early spring. Notably cooler temperatures in August and September allowed us to pick each block at its ideal point of ripeness, leading to outstanding quality and great concentration in the fruit. The grape harvest drew to a close at the end of October, with the last grapes arriving just before an atmospheric river brought much-needed rain to Northern California.

**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:** Robust aromatics of boysenberry, blackberry, cranberry, and black cherry are the centerpiece of this wine, harmonizing with the underlying aromas of violets, sandalwood, and forest floor. The first sip opens on the palate with a rush of softness and density, and lush, savory tannins. Red berries, blackberry, and cassis envelop the tongue on the mid-palate, gently punctuated with subtle acidity followed by a long, flavorful finish.