

TRADITIONS
2006 Riesling



Overview

In 1997, we planted our first vines in the Eastern Washington AVAs of Columbia Valley and Wahluke Slope. At first glance, Eastern Washington is not your typical wine country. It's a remote, windswept, high desert dotted with sagebrush and tumbleweeds. But our family had been farming here since the mid-1950s and we believed the region's moderate temperatures, low rainfall and sandy soils were ideal for grapes. To help with the planting and farming, we hired well-respected viticulturist, James McFerran. Eight years later, after selling our fruit to many of Washington's preeminent wineries, we hired veteran winemaker Gordon Hill to produce wines from the best blocks. Today, we farm 10 distinct estate vineyard sites totaling nearly 1600 acres.

Vineyard

Most of the grapes for our 2006 Riesling came from our Evergreen Vineyard. Planted in 1998, this 452-acre property sits on a bluff above the Columbia River. The site features geologically young soils on top of ancient volcanic basalt beds. The top layers of earth were deposited by floods – the most recent occurring 10,000 years ago – carried down from the high elevations of Montana, Idaho and Washington. All of the wines from the Evergreen Vineyard possess a distinct minerality.

Wine

Riesling has been Germany's signature grape variety since before the Renaissance. It produces a wide range of styles and has a remarkable ability to showcase the intricacies of individual soils and climates. Whether sweet or dry, the grape's natural racy acidity keeps it lively and balanced when young and incredibly sound and complex when old. Over the last two decades, Washington has earned praise for its intense and structured Rieslings.

Our 2006 Traditions Riesling is a great example of terroir and variety. The textbook floral aromas of orange blossom, apricot and white peaches are well supported by the firm acids and hallmark "Evergreen minerality." The palate is lush, but lively; the finish is long and silky.

Composition	100% Riesling
Vineyards	Evergreen Vineyard (70%) Preston Vineyard (30%)
Alcohol	12.5%
TA	0.69
pH	3.03

"Individually, we're just Butch and Jerry. But when we're working together, we're like one really talented person. This wine represents the best of both of us."

Butch and Jerry Milbrandt