



## 2007 Traditions Syrah

### 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 13 distinct estate vineyard sites totaling nearly 1600 acres.

### Vineyard

The fruit for our 2007 Traditions Syrah came from four of our estate vineyards: Clifton Hill, Northridge, Katherine Leone and Wahluke Slope. Located in the Wahluke Slope AVA, these vineyards feature two primary soil types. The younger soils were deposited between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago by the floods that covered the area. These are composed of sand, basalt and river rock. The ancient soils (2 million years old) above the flood line feature fine silt particles, caliche and basalt. Row orientation, vine density, trellising, rootstock and clones are all tailored to the specific terroir of each site.

### Wine

Some grapes have a chameleon-like ability to take on the characteristics of the surrounding countryside. Syrah is one of those grapes. When planted in the Wahluke Slope region it exudes cassis, currants, ripe blueberry, raspberry jam, spice, tobacco, toast and smoke. Our 2007 Traditions is all of that and more. This is a big wine overflowing with ripe, juicy fruit.

### Winemaker Gordon Hill's Tasting Notes

Syrah, the famous grape of France's Northern Rhone, has proven highly successful in Eastern Washington. We added a dash of Petite Sirah (6%) to our Traditions bottling to create a dark, dense, complex wine with jammy fruit and layers of spice and berries.

### Wine Statistics

Composition	94% Syrah 6% Petite Sirah
Vineyards	29% Wahluke Slope 28% Northridge 24% Clifton Hill 19% Katherine Leone
Alcohol	13.9%
TA	0.53
pH	3.75
Brix	26
Harvest Date	9/18/2007
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Fermentation	5 days on skins
Oak	14 months in French and American Barrels
Cases	1,977

"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*