

# milbrandt *vineyards*



## 2009 The Estates Evergreen Chardonnay

### 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 1800 acres.

### Vineyard

Planted in 1998, our 452-acre Evergreen Vineyard sits on a bluff 1300 feet above the Columbia River just north of George, Washington. It is located within the Ancient Lakes region, an emerging area that will soon become an official AVA. 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.

### Tasting Notes

Our 2009 shows why Evergreen is quickly gaining a reputation as one of the best white wine sites in Eastern Washington. This is a beautifully balanced, harmonious wine with bright aromatics and good concentration. The highlights are banana, pineapple, papaya, nectarines, smoke and vanilla. The finish is lush, backed by food-worthy acidity. This Chardonnay pairs beautifully with fish, semi-soft cheeses, roast chicken and shellfish.

### Wine Statistics

**Composition** 100% Chardonnay

**Vineyards** 100% Evergreen

**Alcohol** 13.9%

**TA** .66

**pH** 3.6

**Harvest Date** 10/15/2009

**Yeast** Premier Cuvee

**Oak** French, American & Eastern European

**Cases** 885

"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*