

milbrandt *vineyards*

2009 Traditions 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

The Columbia Valley, with its 11 million total acres and nearly 7,000 acres of vineyards, is the largest viticultural region in Washington State. At most sites, the vines are planted on south-facing slopes, increasing sun exposure in the summer and promoting air circulation in the winter. The growing season is long – 180-200 days – and the climate is windy and arid with only 6-8 inches of rain per year.

Tasting Notes

Our 2009 Traditions Chardonnay is approachable, fruit-driven and refreshing. The nose offers pineapple, nectarine, lemon, lime, acacia, papaya and tangerine. The palate is rich without being heavy or overbearing. Serve this with roast fowl, pork, smoked fish paté, shrimp or pheasant.

Wine Statistics

Composition	100% Chardonnay
AVA	Columbia Valley
Alcohol	13.5%
TA	.58
pH	3.45
Harvest Date	9/17/2009
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Oak	French oak & stainless steel
Cases	560

"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*