

milbrandt *vineyards*



2009 Traditions Pinot Gris

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 fruit for this Pinot Gris came from our Evergreen Estate Vineyard. Planted in 1998, our 452-acre Evergreen 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

The cool temperatures and expanded growing season at our Evergreen Vineyard seem to heighten the floral aspects of Pinot Gris. This 2009 is loaded with figs, apples, pears, lemons, white peaches and nectarines. It is clean, lively and fresh with a nice balance between fruit and acidity. It drinks beautifully on its own or with fish, crab, tarragon chicken, ceviche, prosciutto and melon or hard cheeses.

Words from our Winemaker

"Pinot Gris is a favorite grape of winemakers throughout the world. They love its versatility and the way it captures the flavor of the land. Our Pinot Gris is fragrant with aromas of pear and apple."

-Gordon Hill, winemaker

Wine Statistics

Composition	100% Pinot Gris
Vineyards	100% Evergreen
Alcohol	13%
TA	.69
pH	3.24
Brix	22.6
Harvest Date	9/23/09
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Fermentation	Stainless Steel
Cases	3,972

"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*