



2007 Traditions Cabernet Sauvignon

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 Cabernet Sauvignon came from four of our estate vineyards: Katherine Leone, Don Talcott, Northridge, 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

Each year we go through our cellar and identify the individual lots that will make up our Traditions Cabernet Sauvignon. We look for wines that offer unique and compelling aromatics, flavors and textures. In 2007 we had a number of wonderful lots to choose from. The final blend offers ripe fruit, currants, blackberries and vanilla. The palate is ripe, layered and warm with gentle tannins and soft acids. Approachable and generous, it will match well with steaks, stews, pork, lamb, plank salmon, BBQ and cheeses.

Winemaker Gordon Hill's Tasting Notes

The mark of a great region is the imprint it leaves on its wines. Our Traditions Cabernet Sauvignon offers more than just varietal correctness; it possesses the dark color, rich flavor and firm character that is unique to Eastern Washington.

Wine Statistics

Composition	84% Cabernet Sauvignon 10% Petit Verdot 5% Merlot 1% Malbec
Vineyards	Katherine Leone (47%) Wahluke Slope (22%) Northridge (18%) Don Talcott (13%)
Alcohol	14.2%
TA	0.51
pH	3.70
Harvest Date	10/18/2007
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Fermentation	6 days on skins
Oak	14 months in French and American Barrels
Cases	5,761

"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