



2007 Traditions Merlot

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

Our 2007 Traditions Merlot features grapes from 12 different sites in the Columbia Valley. The diversity of terroir allows us to create a more balanced and complete wine. We also included small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petite Sirah in the final blend for supplemental aromatics, texture and complexity.

Wine

The nose combines varietal and regional signatures. It delivers forward fruit flavors of ripe plums, cherries, blueberries, mocha, vanilla and caramel. The palate is plush, soft and generous. This is an elegant, balanced, supple Merlot that pairs well with salmon, smoked meats, BBQ, game, ham, stew and cheeses.

Winemaker Gordon Hill's Tasting Notes

When grown in the proper places, Merlot produces some of the world's greatest wines. Eastern Washington just happens to be a proper place. Our Traditions Merlot is deep and lush with cassis, blueberries, toast and vanilla.

Wine Statistics

Composition	79% Merlot 17% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Malbec 2% Petite Sirah
AVA	Columbia Valley (100%)
Alcohol	14.2%
TA	0.49
pH	3.63
Harvest Date	9/1/2007
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Oak	10-14 months in a blend of French, American, and European oak
Cases	5,992

"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