

milbrandt *vineyards*



2008 The Estates Malbec

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.

Vineyards

Most of the fruit for our 2008 Estates Malbec came from our Northridge Vineyard. Located at 1,100 feet above sea level, this 92-acre property sits in the foothills of the Saddle Mountain range overlooking the Wahluke Slope. A remarkable place, Northridge has some of the oldest and most complex soils in Eastern Washington. To take full advantage of the site, we planted the vines on a high density grid. This reduces yields and produces smaller berries with more flavor concentration

Tasting Notes

Keep your eye on Eastern Washington Malbec. As we and many of our neighbors in the Columbia Valley are quickly discovering, it loves our terroir. Deep purple in color, our 2008 Malbec offers ripe, jammy flavors riddled with black cherries, plums, boysenberries, smoky oak, brown sugar and vanilla. This is a muscular wine with a blockbuster profile that delivers powerful fruit, silky tannins, a fat mouthfeel and sweet oak. Serve with New York strip steak and mushrooms, curried beef, herbed pot roast, bacon, ham, smoked meats, fire-roasted peppers, enchiladas, mole, and yellow cheeses.

Wine Statistics

Composition	80% Malbec 12% Merlot 8% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards	92% Northridge 3% Talcott 3% Katherine Leone 1% Clifton 1% Pheasant
Alcohol	13.5%
TA	.52
pH	3.40
Harvest Date	11/5/08
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Oak	New French & American
Cases	890

"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*