

# milbrandt *vineyards*



## 2008 The Estates Syrah

### 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 12 distinct estate vineyard sites totaling nearly 1800 acres.

### Vineyard

The primary fruit source for our 2008 Syrah is our 29-acre Clifton Hill Vineyard. Planted in 1999, this is a steep, sloping site overlooking the Columbia River on the west side of the Wahluke Slope near the Sentinel Gap. The site features a rare, stratified layering of different soils that were deposited by the ancient floods and reworked by the winds. Clifton Hill is one of the warmest and most respected vineyards in the Wahluke Slope AVA.

### Tasting Notes

Black opal in color, our Estates Syrah is a deep, brooding mix of cassis, dark fruits, oak, bacon, smoke and maple. The texture is rich and the tannins are velvety. It drinks beautifully with pan-seared salmon, bacon-wrapped filet mignon, fettucine carbonara, Cajun cuisine, cured meats, cassoulet, and a wide range of cheeses, including Gorgonzola and white Cheddar.

### Words from our Winemaker

"This Syrah showcases the finest grapes from three of our estate vineyards. It features the complexity of this variety when grown in Eastern Washington. Dark and dense; this wine is ripe and generous."

**-Gordon Hill, winemaker**

## Wine Statistics

**Composition** 92% Syrah  
4% Grenache  
3% Mourvèdre

**Vineyards** 89% Clifton Hill  
6% Clifton  
4% Clifton Bluff

**Alcohol** 13.7%

**TA** .51

**pH** 3.78

**Harvest Date** 10/15/2008

**Yeast** Premier Cuvee

**Oak** American

**Cases** 250

"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*