

milbrandt *vineyards*



2009 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 2,000 acres.

Vineyard

The fruit for our 2009 Syrah is sourced entirely from three of our most respected vineyards: Clifton, Clifton Bluff and Clifton Hill. The Clifton area overlooks the Columbia River on the west side of the Wahluke Slope near the Sentinel Gap. These vineyards feature fine, wind-blown sand, covering river rock deposited by ancient glacial floods. The sandy soils create excellent drainage and promote early maturation of the fruit.

Tasting Notes

Our 2009 Syrah is an opaque purple, a color akin to a smoky quartz. This wine exhibits a mélange of strong, ripe aromas such as blackberry, boysenberry and smoky maple notes. The flavors are rich and plush upon entry with velvety, round tannins. The mouth feel is robust and generous.

Words from our Winemaker

"Our Syrah showcases the complexity of this variety when grown in Eastern Washington. Dark and dense; this wine is ripe and generous with pepper, blackberries, smoked meat aromas and velvety tannins."

Wine Statistics

Composition	85% Syrah 6% Grenache 5% Mourvèdre 4% Viognier
Vineyards	49% Clifton Hill 45% Clifton 6% Clifton Bluff
Alcohol	13.7%
TA	.52
pH	3.68
Harvest	09/12/09
Brix	25.6
Yeast	Prise de Mousse
Aging/oak	50% American Oak, aged 18 months
Cases	413