

THE ESTATES 2006 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 13 distinct estate vineyard sites totaling nearly 1600 acres.

Vineyard

Our 2006 Estates Syrah features fruit from our Northridge, Don Talcott, Pheasant and Sundance vineyards in the Wahluke Slope AVA. Established in 2006, the Wahluke Slope is a sub-region within Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley appellation. Located midway between Seattle and Spokane it is bordered by the Columbia River to the southwest and Hanford Reach National Monument to the east. Over the past decade, the Wahluke Slope has developed a reputation as one of the best places to cultivate red varieties in the state.

Wine

Our Estates Syrah features fruit from four of our Wahluke Slope vineyards. By combining fruit from multiple sites, winemaker Gordy Hill is able to produce a wine that delivers great balance, weight, varietal accuracy and complexity. One of the most important factors influencing the quality and character of each site is the soil profile. Vines below the 10,000 year-old flood line are a mix of sediment, basalt and river rock. The 2,000,000 year-old soils above the flood line are finer, more porous and riddled with Caliche. The young soils tend to produce wines that are rounded, fruit-forward and exuberant; the ancient soils result in wines that are structured, precise and multifaceted.

Our 2006 Estates Syrah is deep, dark, dense and ripe. The fruit is opulent and overt – a wild mix of boysenberry jam, cassis, oak, smoke and mocha. The flavors are rich, generous and velvety. It drinks beautifully now and should continue to improve over the next decade.

Composition	Syrah (100%)
Vineyards	Northridge (67%), Don Talcott (21%), Pheasant (10%), Sundance (2%)
Alcohol	14.3%
TA	0.54
pH	3.7
Cases	1,292

“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