

THE ESTATES
2007 Evergreen Chardonnay



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

Planted in 1998, our 452-acre Evergreen Vineyard sits on a bluff above the Columbia River just north of George, Washington (subtle). The site features geologically young soils on top of ancient volcanic basalt beds. The top layers of earth were deposited by floods the most recent occurring 10,000 years ago – carried down from the high elevations of Montana, Idaho and Washington. All of the wines from the Evergreen Vineyard possess a distinct minerality.

Wine

While we grow Chardonnay at a number of our estate sites, our Evergreen Vineyard stands well above its peers. Located in the newly emerging Ancient Lakes region, the wine has a fullness of flavor, vibrancy and balance that is compelling and unique.

Immediately after harvest, we cold ferment the juice in tank, transferring it to barrel prior to dryness to complete fermentation. This single-vineyard Chardonnay is aged for five months on the lees (stirred twice weekly) in a combination of French, Eastern European and American oak barrels.

The nose is a mixture of apples, apricots, white peaches, vanilla and cloves. The flavors are bold, ripe and surprisingly crisp. The finish is long, satisfying and complete.

Composition	Chardonnay (100%)
Apellation	Columbia Valley (Ancient Lakes)
Vineyards	Evergreen
Oak	French (43%), Eastern European (35%), American (12%); 83% new
Alcohol	14.3%
TA	0.69
pH	3.42
Cases	921

“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