



2007 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 1600 acres.

Vineyard

This bottling features Malbec from our 92-acre Northridge Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope AVA. Established in 2006, the Wahluke Slope AVA is a sub-region within the 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. Northridge is a south-facing site with ancient, well-draining soils. It consistently produces some of our most concentrated and complex wines.

Wine

The more we work with Malbec, the more we love it. Our 2007 delivers the dark color and explosive fruit that we all associate with this variety. The nose is jammy and saturated with cassis, boysenberry, blackberry and blueberry. The palate is rich, silky, velvety and generous. Open and approachable, this is the perfect sidekick for lamb, wild game, steak, ribs, sausage and cheese.

Winemaker Gordon Hill's Tasting Notes

Originally from southwestern France, Malbec has become quite popular in both North and South America. Featuring grapes from our Northridge Vineyard on Eastern Washington's Wahluke Slope, this Estate Malbec is complex with ripe aromas, a rich velvety mouth feel and a long fruity finish.

Wine Statistics

Composition	88% Malbec 6% Cabernet Sauvignon 3% Merlot 3% Syrah
Vineyards	100% Northridge
Alcohol	14.4%
TA	0.54
pH	3.51
Brix	24
Harvest Date	9/24/2007
Yeast	Premier Cuvee
Oak	14 months in French and American oak barrels
Cases	783

"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