

SENTINEL  
2006 Red Wine



**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 inaugural release of Sentinel comes from our Northridge Vineyard on Eastern Washington's Wahluke Slope. Established in 2006, the Wahluke Slope 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. The climate here is warm enough during the day to fully ripen grapes, yet cool enough at night to ensure bright acids and firm tannins. Northridge is a south-facing site set above the floods of 10,000 years ago. Its ancient soils give us some of our most concentrated and complex wines.

**Wine**

Our Sentinel wines express the true character of a single terroir. Often a blend of varieties, it is meant to showcase the climate, topography and geology of a great site in a great vintage. The 2006 Northridge captures the extraordinary complexity of the ancient soils from our Northridge Vineyard. Composed primarily of Bordeaux varieties and aged in French oak (50% new), it is the finest wine we produce.

Dark, concentrated and powerful, this wine delivers a potpourri of flavors -- blackberry, plum, cassis, maple and vanilla. The palate is plump, lush and velvety. The finish is muscular, dense and serious.

<b>Composition</b>	Cabernet Sauvignon (41%), Merlot (29%), Petit Verdot (12%), Malbec (12%), Petite Sirah (6%)
<b>Vineyards</b>	Northridge
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.3%
<b>TA</b>	0.59
<b>pH</b>	3.61
<b>Cases</b>	378

"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