

TRADITIONS
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 Traditions Syrah features grapes from five of our estate vineyards in the Wahluke Slope AVA. 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 is warm enough during the day to fully ripen Syrah, yet cool enough at night to ensure bright acids and firm tannins.

Wine

Like many varieties, Syrah possesses two distinct personalities. When grown in colder locales it produces a wine that is firmly structured and peppery. When grown in relatively warmer locations, it is deep, rich, generous and voluptuous. Our Traditions Syrah is definitely in the latter camp.

As one would expect, the 2006 is dark and generous. The aromas are riddled with ripe strawberries, red currants and vanilla. The palate offers a mélange of cassis, blackberry and plums. The texture is dense, bold and velvety with smooth, well-integrated tannins.

Composition	Syrah (91.8%), Grenache (5.8%), Petite Sirah (2.5%)
Vineyards	Don Talcott (45.3%), Sundance (23.6%), Pheasant (15.6%), Clifton (12.8%), Northridge (2.8%)
Alcohol	13.8%
TA	0.58
pH	3.89
Cases	748

“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