

TRADITIONS
2007 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

Washington State is one of those rare places on earth capable of producing great wines from both warm- and cool-climate varieties. Our mild climate, large diurnal temperature swings and extended sunlight hours during the summer months allow grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. We also have uniquely intricate soils that bring character and personality to all of our wines. Our Traditions Chardonnay features fruit from two of our estate vineyards. The Sundance Vineyard, in the Wahluke Slope AVA, contributes ripe, tropical notes; the Evergreen Vineyard, in the cooler Ancient Lakes region, adds acidity and minerality.

Wine

Chardonnay is the most widely planted variety in Washington State, surprisingly edging out both Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. While many New World renditions are fat, rich, buttery and unctuous, our Chardonnays tend to be crisp, structured, steely and refreshing.

The 2007 Traditions Chardonnay opens with ripe, tropical fruit aromas (peaches and pineapples) backed by coconut, maple and vanilla. The flavors are rich and bold and well-supported by firm acids and an underlying minerality

Composition	100% Chardonnay
Vineyards	Sundance (67%), Evergreen (33%)
Alcohol	13.9%
TA	0.6
pH	3.55
Cases	3,028

“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