

LEGACY 2005 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

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. Our 2005 Legacy Syrah features fruit from four of our estate vineyard sites on the Wahluke Slope.

Wine

Syrah travels well. Setting out from its home in France's Northern Rhone Valley, this versatile variety has established new roots in Australia, California, South Africa, Chile, Argentina and Washington State, where it is now the third most planted red variety. It could be the wind; it could be the arid climate; it could be the complex, low vigor soils of our vineyards. Whatever the reason, Syrah seems to produce wines of great character and depth when planted along Eastern Washington's Wahluke Slope.

Our 2005 Legacy Syrah is dense, rich, juicy and unabashedly varietal. The wine is large-framed with ripe fruit and relatively soft tannins. The aromas are dominated by lavender, boysenberry, tobacco, blackberries, leather, coffee, vanilla and white pepper. The texture exhibits a broad lushness that is nicely supported by fine natural acidity and soft tannins.

Composition	Syrah (96.4%), Mouvedre(3.6%)
Vineyards	Syrah: Clifton, Sundance, Pheasant Vineyards Mouvedre: Northridge Vineyard
Alcohol	14.6%
TA	0.59
pH	3.67

"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