

TRADITIONS
2006 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. For balance and greater complexity our Traditions Chardonnay blends three separate vineyards from Eastern Washington.

Wine

Chardonnay is the most widely planted variety in the United States. It's also number one in acreage in Washington State, edging out both Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. While many New World renditions are fat, rich, buttery and unctuous, Washington State Chardonnays tend to be crisp, structured, steely and refreshing. Our 2006 Traditions Chardonnay is all of the above. It is bright, fresh and subtly perfumed with citrus, apples and minerals. While there is a dash of oak, it's more of a background spice than a primary ingredient.

Composition	100% Chardonnay
Vineyards	WV, Evergreen, Upland Vineyards
Alcohol	13.9%
TA	0.55
pH	3.65

"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