



## 2010 The Estates Malbec



### Overview

In 1997, we planted our first vines in the Eastern Washington AVAs of the 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 fruit to many of Washington's preeminent wineries, we started producing our own wines from the best vineyard blocks. Today, winemaker Joshua Maloney is handcrafting an award-winning spectrum of Milbrandt Vineyards wines from across the 2,000 acres of our renowned estate vineyards.

**-Butch & Jerry Milbrandt**

### Vineyard

Our celebrated Northridge Vineyard rests in the foothills of the Saddle Mountain Range in the Wahluke Slope AVA, which has one of the warmest and driest climates in the state. The site overlooks the flood plain from the last great ice age of the Columbia River more than 16 million years ago. Northridge's most unique feature is its ancient and complex soils formed on an alluvial gravel bed that was deposited by the floods. These soils are heavy with a topsoil layer of caliche and basalt that is 6-12" deep. This calcium and iron rich media forces the roots to struggle, which allows us to create wines that are dense with full-bodied tannins. The Northridge Vineyard is our star Bordeaux varietal vineyard.

### Tasting Notes

Our Malbec shows deep aromas of cherry and delicate notes of spice, and bold flavors of blueberry. Concentrated and complex, this wine offers lively acidity, polished tannins and a lingering finish. Our Malbec is food friendly and accommodating to a wide range of meat-driven dishes. Try with beef, lamb or game.

### Words from our Winemaker

"Our Malbec is complex with aromas of ripe, wild blueberry, a rich velvety mouth feel and a long, full-bodied finish. Argentina move over - Malbec has found a new home."

**-Joshua Maloney**

### Wine Statistics

<b>Composition</b>	<b>88% Malbec 11% Cabernet Sauvignon 1% Merlot</b>
<b>AVA</b>	<b>Wahluke Slope</b>
<b>Vineyard</b>	<b>Northridge</b>
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>10/17/2010</b>
<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>14.5%</b>
<b>TA</b>	<b>5 (g/L)</b>
<b>pH</b>	<b>3.95</b>
<b>Yeast</b>	<b>Prise de Mousse</b>
<b>Aging/oak</b>	<b>16 months in 30% new French &amp; American oak</b>
<b>Cases</b>	<b>1,100</b>