



## 2010 The Estates Merlot

### 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*

### Wine Statistics

**Composition** 90% Merlot  
10% Cabernet Sauvignon

**AVA** Wahluke Slope

**Vineyards** 36% Northridge  
35% Katherine Leone  
29% Clifton Hill

**Alcohol** 14.3%

**TA** 4.8 (g/L)

**pH** 3.86

**Yeast** Prise de Mousse

**Aging/oak** 16 months in 30% new  
French & American oak

**Cases** 3,150

### Vineyards

The fruit for our 2010 Merlot was harvested from three of our estate vineyards on the Wahluke Slope in the heart of Washington Wine Country. Established in 2006, the Wahluke Slope AVA is bordered by the Columbia River to the southwest, the Hanford Reach National Monument to the east, and the Saddle Mountain Range to the north. The climate here is warm enough during the day to fully ripen grapes, yet cool enough at night to ensure bright acids and firm tannins.

### Tasting Notes

A beautiful dark red color, our 2010 estate bottling of Merlot has aromas of cocoa, cassis and tree ripened plums with notes of maple and vanilla. This wine offers flavors of red berries, cherry and spice. Our Merlot is full-bodied with elegant structure and a lingering, silky finish.

### Words from our Winemaker

"The terroir of Eastern Washington seems to emphasize the true character of Merlot. Our Merlot is full-bodied with aromas of dark, dusty cocoa, lush Bing cherry flavors and a long, lingering smooth finish."

*-Joshua Maloney*