



2011 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. Eight years later 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 our renowned estate vineyards.

-Butch & Jerry Milbrandt

Vineyards

The grapes for the 2011 bottling of The Estates Merlot came from some of our best vineyards in the Wahluke Slope AVA. This area has one of the warmest and driest climates in the state allowing for complete control over vine vigor and growth through irrigation. These sites consistently produce wines that are dark, dense and full-bodied with intense fruit and firm tannins.

Tasting Notes

A beautiful deep red, our 2011 Merlot has earthy aromas of ripe plum, black cherry and hints of dried herb. Our Merlot is full-bodied with elegant structure, polished tannins followed by a chewy palata with hints of vanilla and toast giving way to a long, 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

Composition 86% Merlot
10% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Malbec
2% Petit Verdot

Vineyards 33% Clifton
22% Clifton Hill
19% Wahluke
14% Northridge
12% Katherine Leone

Alcohol 14.5%

TA 5.3 (g/L)

pH 3.72

Aging/oak 16 months in 50% new
French & American oak

Cases 3,000