



2012 Traditions 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. Today, winemaker Joshua Maloney is handcrafting an award-winning spectrum of Milbrandt Vineyards wines from our renowned estate vineyards.

-Butch & Jerry Milbrandt

Vineyards

Our bottling of the 2012 Traditions Merlot is comprised of grapes harvested from our Wahluke Slope vineyards in the heart of the Columbia Valley. Our vineyards are planted on south-facing aspects to allow for optimal sun exposure. The climate here is typically very warm and sunny during the day to fully ripen grapes, but it is also cool enough at night to ensure bright acids and firm tannins. In 2012, we had a typical Columbia Valley year with a mild winter and a warm, dry spring. The result was an exceptional vintage that gave us beautiful deep color, wonderful flavor intensity and perfectly balanced acidity.

Tasting Notes

Our 2012 Merlot is round and rich with classic aromas and flavors of blackberry, plum, hints of mocha and espresso with a touch of savory dried herb. It has a juicy, ripe entry, a soft round fruit driven palate and a hint of vanilla cr me on the finish.

Words from our Winemaker

"Eastern Washington is known for producing some of the best Merlot in the world. The Merlot from our Wahluke Slope vineyards develops dark in color with deep, full-bodied flavors."

-Joshua Maloney

Composition	89% Merlot 8% Malbec 3% Petit Verdot
AVA	Columbia Valley
Vineyards	Clifton Bluff Wahluke Slope Purple Sage Sundance Clifton
Harvest Date	October 2012
Alcohol	13.50%
pH	3.96
TA	4.60 g/L
Aging/Oak	100% barrel aged in 20% new French & American oak