Head east from Seattle along Interstate 90 and in 2 hours you’ll find yourself crossing the mighty Columbia River, entering the heart of Washington State’s wine country. This is the Columbia Valley, where the vast terrain ranges from breath-taking river gorges to undulating hills formed by Ice Age floods and ancient volcanoes. Separated from Seattle’s rainy, marine climate by the Cascade Mountains, the state’s wine country lies in the rain shadow of the mountains and enjoys only 6 to 8 inches of rain each year. Here, the conditions are ideal for wine grapes.

Forty miles north of the Wahluke Slope lies an area within the north central Columbia Valley, vastly different from any other wine region in the world. Washington’s Ancient Lakes area - recognized in 2012 as an official AVA with the help of Butch and his brother Jerry - is home to about one thousand acres of wine grapes. The area has some of the most dramatic landforms in Washington State, which were created by Ice Age floods. Proving to be exceptional for Chardonnay, Riesling and Pinot Gris in particular, this area has a special place in the Milbrandt family history. It is here where brothers Butch and Jerry Milbrandt grew up. In 1998 they planted their first vineyard: Evergreen. Since then Ancient Lakes, El Castillo and Spanish Castle have also been planted.

Now a multi-generational brand with Butch and his son Buck taking the lead, Milbrandt Vineyards remains a symbol of perseverance and reward. Evergreen Vineyard was named “Vineyard of the Year” by Seattle Magazine and over 12 varietals have been awarded “Best Buy” or “Editor’s Choice” by Wine Enthusiast. To date, Milbrandt wines have earned more than sixty-five 90 point ratings. A premium wine tier as well as an introductory wine tier is available nationwide, both delivering uncompromising quality.