



**2008 Pedestal Merlot
Columbia Valley
Michel Rolland**

Pomerol vintner and international consultant Michel Rolland partners with Long Shadows' Allen Shoup to produce this acclaimed, limited release wine.

Tasting Notes: Vibrant flavors of fresh blackberries, currants and ripe red fruits are framed by notes of toasted oak and bittersweet chocolate. Dark and rich with great concentration, texture and a hint of baking spice that weaves through nuances of fresh huckleberry pie that linger on the finish.

Vintage: The 2008 growing season was somewhat cooler than previous vintages resulting in grapes with wonderful acidity. The 2008 Pedestal, with its vibrancy and purity, reflects the conditions of the vintage. Modest summer temperatures delayed veraison by a few weeks, but meticulous care throughout the growing season kept the vines in balance and set the stage for an excellent harvest. September and October were picture-perfect, marked by warm days and cool nights, delivering beautifully ripened fruit brimming with flavor.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes were sorted, de-stemmed, and then sorted again to remove any green material that might impart harsh tannins in the finished wine. After double-sorting, grapes underwent whole-berry fermentation in upright wood tanks to produce a wine with concentrated color and rich texture. Using a selection of Michel's favorite coopers, including Sylvain and Alain Fouquet, the wine was aged 22 months in 85% new French oak.

Vineyards: As with previous vintages, Pedestal is a blend of carefully selected vineyards chosen to create a layered, complex wine. A significant portion of the grapes used for this blend were grown on or near Red Mountain from such well-known sites as Taptail and Dionysus. Both vineyards contribute to the wine's bold, dark fruit. Weinbau and Conner Lee Vineyards on the Wahluke Slope add to the wine's deep color and rich flavors.

Blend:
81% Merlot
12% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Cabernet Franc
3% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 14.7
pH: 3.71
TA: .56
Release date: March 2011
Production: 2,012 cases