



2013 Pedestal Merlot

Columbia Valley

Michel Rolland

Michel Rolland, Pomerol vintner and consultant to many of the world's top wineries, teamed with Washington State wine visionary Allen Shoup to produce this limited release wine.

Tasting Notes: This deeply concentrated wine boasts rich, ripe aromas of blackberry cobbler and violets complemented by intriguing spice components. The lush, complex palate is balanced beautifully by ample acidity and creamy oak nuances. Tannins are firm, yet supple and will integrate seamlessly as the wine ages.

Vintage: : The 2013 growing season started with an early bud break followed by consistently dry, warm weather that lasted until rainfall moved across the Columbia Valley in mid-June. The precipitation allowed the vines to establish a solid canopy that proved useful when temperatures reached 100 degrees immediately following the rains. With a protective exterior canopy, we were able to open the interior canopy to allow uniform ripening in the fruit zone. As temperatures cooled in September, the extended hang time allowed grape flavors to fully mature.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes were double-sorted to take out stems or jacks that might impart harsh tannins, then the majority of the lots were cold soaked to provide structure and flavor before undergoing whole-berry fermentation in 55hL upright Radoux wood tanks. This, combined with gentle pump-overs throughout fermentation, contributed to the wine's color and helped enhance richness on the palate. Aged 22 months in French oak barrels, 85% new.

Vineyards: A blend of equal parts Merlot from three distinct vineyards: Conner Lee Vineyard brings dark cherry flavors; Dionysus Vineyard adds to the wine's elegant mouthfeel and deep color; The Benches Vineyard Merlot contributes refined texture. Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon from Tapteil Vineyard gives the wine its richness and structure. Weinbau Cabernet Franc provides an added layer of complexity and character.

Blend: 75% Merlot
10% Cabernet Sauvignon
9% Petit Verdot
3% Malbec
3% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol: 15.2%

pH: 3.84

TA: 0.40

Release Date: November 2015

Production: 2,246 cases