



**2004 Pedestal Merlot**  
Columbia Valley  
Michel Rolland

Michel Rolland, Pomerol vintner and consultant to many of the world's most famous wineries, teamed with Washington State wine pioneer Allen Shoup to produce the second vintage of this limited release wine.

**Tasting Notes:** Intense cherry, blackberry and baking spice aromas and flavors are woven throughout layers of ripe tannins resulting in a full bodied Merlot with a great concentration of flavors and richness that carry across a lengthy finish.

**Vintage:** Because of a harsh January freeze that left everyone anxious about damage to the vines, the 2004 vintage required meticulous care in the vineyard. Those who did, including Long Shadows vintners, were rewarded with wonderfully ripe, well-balanced wines. We asked growers to prune to two buds in the early spring, thin at bloom, thin again and drop green clusters at veraison; and finally, leaf thin in September to open up the canopy and promote even ripening. As a result, Long Shadows' blocks averaged 1 – 2 tons per acre, just slightly less than a "typical" year. This, combined with warm summer temperatures and an extended growing season proved ideal conditions for ripening grapes fully, yielding flavorful, balanced wines.

**Winemaking:** Grapes were allowed to hang as long as possible for extra richness and ripeness, then hand-harvested and delivered to the winery where the fruit was destemmed but not crushed to avoid harsh tannins and preserve fruit character. After fermentation, grapes were moved to French oak barrels for 23 months. Rolland carefully selected the coopers himself calling for Merlot to age in Sylvain barrels for elegance and to help polish the mid-palate; Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc rested in Seguin Moreau and Saury barrels to stand-up to the wines' tannins and impart density and richness.

**Vineyards:** Pedestal's 2004 vineyard sources were selected to produce a rich, jammy, fruit-forward wine. Primary vineyard sources included Alder Ridge (30%) in the Horse Heaven Hills, giving the wine elegance and wonderful aromatics, Weinbau Vineyard (24%) on the Wahluke Slope adding ripe black fruit and richness and Wallula Vineyard (21%), delivering deep flavors and complexity.

**Blend:**  
77% Merlot  
16% Cabernet Sauvignon  
5% Cabernet Franc  
2% Petit Verdot

**Alcohol:** 14.7%  
**pH:** 3.78  
**TA:** 0.62 grams / 100ml  
**Release date:** February 2007  
**Production:** 1624 cases