



**2009 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: Rich and expressive, yet graceful, this intensely aromatic Merlot displays a wide array of mouthwatering flavors, including ripe blackberries, dark plum and baker's chocolate. Sweet tannins and a velvety texture persist across a lengthy finish.

Vintage: The 2009 vintage produced exceptional wines with deep color and concentration. Spring was a bit cooler and wetter than usual, but the arrival of dry weather in June led to good fruit set. Temperatures warmed considerably in July and stayed warm into September. These consistent, warm temperatures and lower than average yields caused the grapes to ripen quickly and evenly, sparking one of the earliest and fastest harvests on record.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes were sorted first as clusters and sorted again as berries after de-stemming to remove any green material that might impart harsh tannins. After double-sorting, the grapes were cold soaked to build richness and flavor in the juice before undergoing whole-berry fermentation in upright wood tanks, further enhancing the wine's color and texture. Aged 22 months in 85% new Sylvain and Millet French oak barrels.

Vineyards: Pedestal is a blend of carefully selected vineyards chosen to create a rich, layered wine. Weinbau and Conner Lee vineyards represent a little more than half the blend, forming the wine's rich, round mouth feel and adding dark berry flavors. Dionysus vineyard contributes freshness and balance; and at its core, Red Mountain's Tapteil vineyard serves as the backbone for the wine, giving it structure.

Blend:
83% Merlot
12% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.73
TA: .58
Release date: Fall 2012
Production: 1,994 cases