



**2012 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: With its intense color and inviting aromas of dark berries, licorice, baking spice and a hint of smoke, the 2012 Pedestal is a bold wine that leaves a lasting impression. Dark fruit flavors integrated with sweetness from the barrel and richness from the tannins come together seamlessly, lingering across a structured mid-palate and lengthy finish.

Vintage: The 2012 vintage produced wines with exceptional color and rich, complex flavors. The growing season started warm; April conditions were near perfect, then temperatures cooled considerably in May and June before warming for the summer and remaining remarkably consistent throughout harvest. Small berries loaded with intense flavor matured beautifully, yielding rich flavors and ripe, integrated tannins.

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

Vineyards: As has been the case since Pedestal's debut in 2003, Conner Lee Vineyards Merlot plays a dominant role in crafting a dark, rich wine of uncommon character. Candy Mountain Merlot enhances the wine's complexity. Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, from Taptiel Vineyards, builds richness and structure. Dionysus Vineyard Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc give the wine its vibrant character.

Blend:
81% Merlot
9% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Cabernet Franc
5% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 15.1%
pH: 3.80
TA: 0.56
Release date: November 2014
Production: 1,997 cases