



**2006 Pedestal Merlot
Columbia Valley
Michel Rolland**

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

Tasting Notes: An intense, fruit forward wine, bursting with dark cherries, ripe plum, dark chocolate and spice. Good concentration in the wine adds to its pleasing mouth feel; balanced acidity enhances its appeal. Supple tannins are well-integrated on the entry, across the mid-palate and throughout the long, layered finish.

Vintage: The 2006 growing season produced big, jammy reds well-suited to Michel Rolland's winemaking style. While there were some early worries that high heat accumulation in July and August would cause grapes to ripen too quickly, September temperatures cooled just enough to slow ripening and allow flavors to fully develop. In short, a near-perfect Columbia Valley vintage to showcase Rolland's trademark rich and concentrated style.

Winemaking: Hand harvested grapes underwent whole-berry fermentation to avoid imparting harsh tannins in the wine and to preserve the grapes' aromatics and fresh fruit character. Following fermentation, the wine was moved into French oak (85% new) and aged 22 months in an assortment of barrels from Rolland's favorite coopers, including Saury, Sylvain and Alain Fouquet.

Vineyards: Pedestal is a blend of diverse vineyard sites, each adding layers and complexity to the finished wine. Merlot from Conner Lee and Dionysus Vineyards is wonderfully aromatic and bursting with fresh blueberries. Mid-Columbia vineyards contribute boldness and structure. Merlot from Wallula Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills adds a layer of earthiness to the wine. Petit Verdot off the Wahluke Slope has great acidity, contributing to the wine's liveliness, and Malbec enhances the wine's mouth feel and complexity.

Blend:
86% Merlot
8% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Petit Verdot
2% Malbec

Alcohol: 14.7
pH: 3.83
TA: .51
Release date: February 2009
Production: 1877