



2010 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: The 2010 Pedestal Merlot is a bold, expressive wine with intense flavors and aromas of blackberry jam, dried flowers, crème de cassis, licorice and toasted oak. Sweet tannins and a velvety texture persist across the mid-palate to provide a wonderfully balanced and lengthy finish.

Vintage: The 2010 Columbia Valley growing season was cooler than preceding years earning it comparisons to 1999, a highly-regarded vintage that produced wines with excellent color, flavor and varietal character. A cool spring delayed flowering and reduced fruit set as temperatures remained moderate throughout the summer; but by working with growers to drop clusters and open up the leaf canopies early in the season, the vines were well positioned to complete ripening when the warm weather arrived and extended later than usual into the season.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes were double-sorted to remove any green material that might impart harsh tannins. Afterwards, most of the lots 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, texture and mouth-feel. The finished wine was aged 22 months in 85% new Sylvain and Millet French oak barrels.

Vineyards: Merlot was sourced from Weinbau Vineyard (23%), Candy Mountain (21%), Dionysus (17%) and Conner Lee Vineyard (13%) – all warm sites with free-draining soils. Cabernet Sauvignon from Red Mountain's Tapteil Vineyard contributed to the wine's bold flavors, deep color, richness and structure.

Blend:
81% Merlot
19% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 15.2%
pH: 3.66
TA: 0.56
Release date: July 2013
Production: 967 cases