



**2003 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 this limited release.

**Tasting Notes:** Layers of rich currant and blueberry flavors, complimented by hints of mocha, cedar and spice. Pedestal is a uniquely structured wine that offers an alluring balance of intensity and finesse.

**Vintage:** Known for his penchant for rich, jammy, fruit-forward wines, Michel found the Columbia Valley's 2003 vintage exactly to his liking. This was one of Washington's warmest seasons on record with overall heat accumulation rivaling the high numbers posted in 1998. Temperatures were consistently warm from June through August giving the vines time to acclimate to the temperatures and allowing grapes and flavors to ripen at an even pace. In short, 2003 was another remarkable Columbia Valley vintage from start to finish and a perfect year for Rolland to style a complex, showy wine exactly to his taste.

**Winemaking:** Grapes were allowed to hang as long 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 that would stand up to the wines' tannins and impart density and richness.

**Vineyards:** Michel crafted Pedestal with Merlot from the Alder Ridge, Dionysus and Conner Lee Vineyards. Alder Ridge produces elegant fruit that captures the aromas of the Horse Heaven Hills terroir. The mature plantings of Dionysus, with their developed roots, supply dense, dark fruit - and Conner Lee contributes acid balance and enhanced black fruit characteristics. Cabernet Sauvignon from the Yakima Valley adds structure and a small percentage of grapes from Ciel du Cheval on Red Mountain provide extra balance and depth.

**Blend:**  
75% Merlot  
15% Cabernet Sauvignon  
7% Cabernet Franc  
3% Petit Verdot

**Alcohol:** 14.7%  
**pH:** 3.76  
**TA:** 0.60 grams / 100ml  
**Release date:** February 2006  
**Production:** 553cases