



2016 Pedestal Merlot
Columbia Valley
Michel Rolland

Michel Rolland, Pomerol vintner and consultant to many of the world's top wineries, provides the vision for this limited release wine.

Tasting Notes: A beautiful, dark opaque wine with expressive aromas of black cherry, cinnamon, cocoa, oak spice and a hint of sweet violet. Rich and balanced on the palate with layers of huckleberry, bittersweet chocolate and dark fruit flavors that leave a bold, yet refined, impression on the finish.

Vintage: Like the last several growing seasons, 2016 was another hot year that required extra care in the vineyards. Building on the success of our canopy management program over the last few vintages, we worked with growers throughout the season to encourage growth of the canes and outside foliage to protect against the sun while opening up the fruit zone for even maturation. Warm temperatures in the fall hastened ripening, but the Columbia Valley's cool autumn nights protected the grapes' acidity, yielding bright, vibrant wines that will drink well in their youth but also promise to bring enjoyment to those who cellar.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes were double-sorted before fermentation to remove any green materials that might impart harsh tannins. Afterwards, most lots were cold soaked to build richness and flavor before undergoing whole-berry fermentation in 1,500 gallon upright wood tanks. Oak fermenters were used to craft a big, balanced wine with well-integrated oak, fruit and notable richness on the palate. The finished wine was aged 22 months in French oak barrels, 85% new.

Vineyards: The 2016 Pedestal is a blend of one-third Wahluke Slope grapes that give Pedestal its bright, vibrant character, along with pretty violet and red cherry aromas and flavors. Dionysus and Bacchus Vineyard vines, planted in the late 1980s and early 1990s, comprise another third of the blend, adding black cherry and spice. Grapes from the Red Mountain area vineyards (25%) bring structure and complexity, and a small selection of top Horse Heaven Hills vineyards (11%) contribute refined tannins and layered complexity.

Blend:
75% Merlot
21% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.77
TA: 0.58 grams /100ml
Production: 2,395 cases