



*Stephen Tanzer's*

# International Wine Cellar

## Long Shadows Vintners Collection

Nov /Dec 09

### **2006 Sequel, Syrah - Columbia Valley**

**93+ points**

Bright, full ruby. Sexy, almost liqueur-like aromas of raspberry, graphite, gunflint and rose petal. At once suave and penetrating, with terrific acidity giving shape to the raspberry, blackberry and spice flavors. Australian John Duval ages this wine in all French barriques, 65% new, except for a single 300-liter American barrel.

### **2006 Chester-Kidder, Red Wine - Columbia Valley**

**93 points**

45% cabernet sauvignon, 36% syrah, 10% petit verdot and 9% cabernet franc. Excellent bright ruby-red. Deep aromas of blackcurrant, licorice, spices and leather. Suave on entry, then primary, deep and sweet, with a penetrating quality to the rich dark berry, spice and mint flavors. This one has a tightly coiled spring and underlying minerality that suggest it will be long-lived. Finishes clenched in a positive way, with a rising finish and broad, integrated tannins. This is the project of Gilles Nicault, who also serves as the resident winemaker for the Long Shadows project.

### **2006 Pirouette, Red Wine - Columbia Valley**

**92 points**

This joint project of Agustin Huneeus, Sr. and Philippe Melka is a blend of 54% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot, 15% petit verdot, 6% cab franc and 5% syrah. Good deep ruby-red. Very ripe aromas of dark raspberry, mocha and spices, with a sweetness from the Taransaud barrels. Broad and sweet in the mouth: I would have guessed this had some residual sugar but I suspect the wine's glycerol quality is largely due to the fact that much of it was fermented in 400-liter barrels with native yeasts. Finishes with big, chewy tannins that build with air without losing their essential suavity.

### **2006 Saggi, Red Wine - Columbia Valley**

**92 points**

The project of Giovanni Folonari; 42% cabernet sauvignon, 39% sangiovese and 19% syrah. Highly aromatic nose projects notes of berries, cherry, spices and dried flowers. Sweet, spicy and sharply delineated, delivering cherry and berry fruit flavors complicated by a meaty nuance. Finishes, clean, spicy and quite long, with palate-saturating flavor.

### **2006 Feather, Cabernet Sauvignon - Columbia Valley**

**91+ points**

This is Randy Dunn's project, made entirely from cabernet sauvignon. Good deep ruby-red. Sexy if subdued aromas of cherry, currant, smoked meat and vanillin oak. Broad, full and quite dry, with a weightless quality to the blueberry and spicy oak flavors. Sound acids gives this wine excellent cut and perfumed back-end lift. According to resident winemaker Gilles Nicault, Dunn and John Duval are the two partners in the Long Shadows venture who tend to harvest their fruit on the early side, Dunn to make a wine with lowish alcohol and Duval to preserve the freshness of his syrah.

### **2006 Pedestal, Merlot - Columbia Valley**

**91 points**

Michel Rolland's blend, consisting of 86% merlot, 8% cabernet sauvignon, 4% petit verdot and 2% malbec; aged in 85% new oak. Good bright ruby-red. Sweet, creamy aromas of red currant and sexy sandalwood. Fat, rich and sweet, with a ripeness verging on overripe. The wine's big tannins initially overwhelmed the merlot character, but this big, broad, distinctly New World wine showed increasing fruit flavor with extended aeration.

### **2008 Poet's Leap, Riesling – Columbia Valley**

**90 points**

Very pale yellow. Subtle, complex aromas of ginger, quinine, white peach and brown spices. Dense, fat and moderately sweet (14 g/l r.s.) but with strong acidity refreshing and firming the white peach flavor. Finishes juicy, lively and long. Very tasty riesling.