



*Stephen Tanzer's*

# International Wine Cellar

## Long Shadows Vintners Collection

Nov/Dec 07

By Stephen Tanzer

### **2004 Sequel, Syrah - Columbia Valley**

**93**

(From Australia's John Duval, ex-maker of Penfolds Grange and now the owner of his own label) Bright ruby-red. Scented, complex aromas and flavors of dried cranberry, plum, game, chocolate, wild spices and herbs and sexy coconutty oak. Wonderfully suave, firm and dry on the palate, with terrific subtle intensity to the flavors. The rising, very long finish features fine tannins, a smoky nuance and terrific energy. A very sophisticated syrah; some of Washington's home-grown winemakers might learn something from this baby.

### **2004 Feather, Cabernet Sauvignon - Columbia Valley**

**91(+?)**

(Randy Dunn is the partner here) Bright ruby-red. Dark aromas of cassis, tar, smoked meat and nutty oak. Juicy and intensely flavored, with noteworthy energy to the primary flavors of cassis and plum. Not yet complex but has the strength of fruit to support its very firm tannins and powerful structure. Finishes with excellent length and aromatic lift. Very Dunn in style: winemakers may well work with fruit from disparate regions, but they generally add their own DNA to the equation.

### **2004 Chester-Kidder, Red Wine - Columbia Valley**

**91**

(A blend of Bordeaux varieties and some syrah; this one's the wine of Gilles Nicault, who also serves as the resident winemaker for all of the Long Shadows bottlings; aged for 28 months in 85% new barrels that were air-dried for a full three years) Subtly complex nose melds plum, cranberry, chocolate, tobacco and fresh herbs. Very ripe, fat and sweet, with a hint of game adding nuance to the redcurrant and chocolate flavors. An attractively plump wine that finishes sweet and long, with impressively lush tannins.

### **2004 Saggi, Red Wine - Columbia Valley**

**91**

(A blend of sangiovese, cabernet sauvignon and syrah; Ambrogio and Giovanni Folonari are the latest internationally acclaimed winemakers to become partners in this project) Highly complex nose combines plum, chocolate, dried flowers and tobacco. Suave, silky and sweet, but with lovely energy to the flavors of plum, cranberry and tobacco. I can certainly see the sangiovese component here. Finishes dry and long, with sweet, fine tannins.

### **2004 Pedestal, Merlot - Columbia Valley**

**90(+?)**

(Michel Rolland's project; aged in 85% new oak) Good deep red. Pure, reticent aromas of plum, chocolate and tobacco, with suggestions of superripe fruit. Fat, plush and ripe, with lovely breadth to the flavors of plum, licorice, smoke and herbs. Finishes with dusty tannins and very good grip. Initially quite dry, in the Rolland style, but the fruit character grew sweeter as the wine opened in the glass.

**2004 Pirouette, Red Wine - Columbia Valley****89(+?)**

(A blend of 49% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, 13% petit verdot and 11% syrah; this is a joint project of Philippe Melka and Agustin Huneeus, Sr.) Plum, chocolate and nutty, vanillin oak on the nose, with a fruit syrup quality that reminded me of grenache. Fat, rich and liqueur-like, with very ripe, chocolatey flavor dominating. The tannins are substantial but essentially sweet. This wine struck me as a bit youthfully disjointed in July.

**2006 Poet's Leap, Riesling – Columbia Valley****89**

(Armin Diel of Schlossgut Diel in Germany's Nahe region is involved in this venture) Very bright, pale color. Aromas and flavors of musky ripe peach, ginger, nutmeg and earth; reminded me of a Nahe riesling. Juicy, intensely flavored and just off-dry, offering a satisfying supple texture and very good length. Just misses the grip for a 90-point rating.