



Stephen Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

Long Shadows Vintners Collection

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By Stephen Tanzer

2003 Feather, Cabernet Sauvignon - Columbia Valley 91

(\$55; made by Randy Dunn) Bright ruby-red. Dark berries, plum, graphite, licorice, mocha and earth on the nose. Plump, ripe and broad but not overly sweet, with fruit-driven flavors of plum and black raspberry. The tannins show a slight youthful dryness but nonetheless come across as broad and sweet for a Randy Dunn wine. Stylish and long.

2003 Chester-Kidder, Red Wine - Columbia Valley 91

(\$55; made from the five Bordeaux varieties plus 29% syrah by Gilles Nicault, who was responsible for the Woodward Canyon wines from 1996 through 2003) Ruby-red. Cassis and bitter chocolate on the nose, with a suggestion of candied berries. Sweet, dense and broad, with expressive flavors of plum, cassis, chocolate and licorice. Very rich and chocolatey on the back end, finishing with dusty tannins and good fat fruit. Lovely wine. This spent 27 months in French oak.

2003 Pedestal, Merlot - Columbia Valley 91

(\$55; made by Michel Rolland) Good full ruby. Aromas of cassis, dark plum, leather, licorice, tobacco and nutty oak. Sweet, fat and plush, with ripe acidity giving a juicy quality and firm shape to the layered flavors. Finishes with substantial broad tannins and lingering notes of torrefaction.

2003 Pirouette, Red Wine - Columbia Valley 90

(\$55; a Bordeaux blend that also contains 10% syrah) Bright ruby-red. Cassis, graphite, minerals, smoked meat and a whiff of herbs on the sweet nose. Sweet and fat but firm in the mouth, with flavors of redcurrant and meat, perked up by sexy Taransaud oak tones. Finishes with ripe but slightly edgy tannins and bright acidity. This bottling is made by Philip Melka.

2005 Poet's Leap, Riesling - Columbia Valley 89

(\$20) Very pale, bright color. Soft citrus, ginger, nutmeg and a whiff of peach skin on the nose. Juicy, fruity and intense, with flavors similar to the aromas. The driest version of this wine to date at 16.5 grams per liter residual sugar. Still, this highly successful riesling is more about varietal than site character. From vines planted in '82, '80, '79 and '72.

2003 Sequel, Syrah - Columbia Valley 88

(\$55; made by Australian John Duval, one-time maker of Penfolds Grange and now making wines under his own label) Sauvage, gamey aromas of blackberry, violet and truffle. Sweet on entry, then quite firm in the middle, with dark berry and meat flavors complicated by a candied suggestion of caramel. Finishes with substantial tannins. Showing better than a bottle I tried a year ago, but still seems a bit extractive in character.