



Source: *Wine Advocate* #164 (Apr 2006)

2003 Pedestal Merlot

Columbia Valley, WA

94 points

None other than Michel Rolland, of Pomerol and flying winemaker fame, is at the helm of this Long Shadows consortium winery. A firm believer in ripe tannin and gentle winemaking to promote fruit flavors and avoid harshness or edginess, Rolland must have loved the long hang-times possible in Washington State's Columbia Valley. The 2003 Pedestal (553 cases) sports a deep nose of ripe cherries and toasty oak. Fashioned from 75% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot, this beauty broadens on the palate to reveal lush layers of thick, silky-textured red fruits. Pure, concentrated, and medium to full-bodied, it is an engaging, hedonistic wine. Drink it over the next 12-15 years.

2003 Feather Cabernet Sauvignon

Columbia Valley, WA

93 points

Feather, a member of the Long Shadows consortium, is produced by Randy Dunn, of Napa Valley (Howell Mountain) fame. As would be expected from Dunn, the 2003 Feather (437 cases) is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and sports a dark, opaque color. Its bold aromatics reveal loads of roasted black fruits and spices. A massive effort, it is thick, dense, and powerful. Layers of licorice and tar-laced black fruits are found in its velvety-textured core as well as in its long finish. Though unquestionably a Randy Dunn wine, one that's loaded for bear (not quail), its finish reveals ripe, round tannin that is sweeter and more civilized than any I've encountered in Dunn's California behemoths (and I own many!).

2003 Pirouette Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

93 points

A Long Shadows consortium winery, Pirouette has two men at its helm, Agustin Huneeus, Sr. (Veramonte and Concha y Toro of Chile, as well as California's Franciscan Oakville Estate, Mount Veeder, Estancia, and Quintessa) and Philippe Melka (Marston, Seavey, Constant, Lail, Caldwell, Quintessa, 100 Acre, Vineyard 29, and Metisse). The 2003 Pirouette (500 cases), a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Syrah, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot, reveals a super nose of sweet black fruits, tar, and licorice. An immensely broad wine, it unleashes creamy waves of black fruits on the palate that are powerfully flavored and linger throughout its extensive finish. An immensely lush, engaging effort, it reveals excellent tannin and ripeness. Drink it over the next 12-14 years.

2003 Sequel Syrah

Columbia Valley, WA

92 points

After 15 years of being responsible for Penfold's Grange, Australia's most famous wine, John Duval has taken the helm of Sequel, a Long Shadows consortium winery. Aged in 75% French and 25% American oak, the 2003 Syrah displays a nose of cassis, black raspberry liqueur, and spicy American oak. Jam-packed with black raspberries and blackberries, this medium to full-bodied wine explodes on the palate, displaying copious fruit, gorgeous purity of flavors, and an admirably long finish. Drink it over the next 8-9 years.

2002 Chester-Kidder Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

90 points

A member of the Long Shadows consortium, Chester-Kidder is named after Elizabeth Chester (Allen Shoup's mother) and Maggie Kidder (his father's mother). Unlike the other Long Shadows wineries, each of which is under the guidance of an internationally acclaimed winemaker, Chester-Kidder is run by Allen Shoup and winemaker Gilles Nicault. "My philosophy is to extract a lot and then polish the wine for 27 months in French oak," explained Nicault. A 300-case blend of 47% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Syrah, and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2002 Chester-Kidder explodes from the glass with spices that are reminiscent of wines made in American oak (though all the oak was French). Its cedary, dark-fruit-laced personality is firm, structured, and boasts loads of exotic spice flavors. This concentrated wine will benefit from cellaring to civilize its tannin. Projected maturity: 2010-2019.

2004 Poet's Leap Riesling

Columbia Valley, WA

89 points

Armin Diel, of Schlossgut Diel and wine writing fame, is at the helm of Poet's Leap, a Long Shadows consortium winery. The 2004 Riesling (500 cases) is an excellent off-dry (19.3 grams of residual sugar per liter) white with lovely linden blossom and spice aromas. Sweet minerals, slight notes of honey, melon, and pear are found in this spicy effort's core. Drink it over the next 4 years.

