



Source: *Wine Advocate* #172 (August 2007)

2004 Pedestal Merlot

Columbia Valley, WA

94 points

The 2004 Pedestal Merlot is made by the peripatetic Michel Rolland whose home base is Pomerol. His wine also contains small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot, all the fruit sourced from several vineyards and AVAs with yields in the range of 1-2 tons per acre. The wine was aged in French oak for 23 months. Opaque purple in color, this superb Merlot offers a classic perfume of pain grille, spice box, black cherry, and blackberry. This is followed by a rich, intensely flavored wine with great depth, concentration, and length. All components are nicely integrated with enough underlying structure to support 5-7 years of further evolution. The long, pure finish suggests that this Merlot will drink well through 2040.

2004 Feather Cabernet Sauvignon

Columbia Valley, WA

91 points

The 2004 Feather Cabernet Sauvignon is made by Randy Dunn of Napa Valley fame. It is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon selected from five vineyards sources and aged for 23 months in French oak. This opaque purple wine delivers classic Cabernet aromas of toast, lead pencil, black currant and blackberry. It has excellent flavors and balance but is just slightly lacking in breadth and length. Nevertheless, it is an outstanding effort.

2004 Pirouette Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

93 points

The featured winemakers are Agustin Huneeus Sr. and Philippe Melka. The wine is composed of 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot, and 11% Syrah. The fruit was selected from vineyards encompassing five different AVAs with yields in the range of 1-2 tons per acre. The wine was aged for 21 months in French oak, 75% new. The expressive nose offers up pain grille, scorched earth, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. This is followed by a thick wine with silky tannins, superb depth and richness, and layers of flavor. It merits several years of cellaring and should drink well through 2037. In the context of what \$55 will get you from Napa Valley or Bordeaux, this is a terrific value.

2004 Sequel Syrah

Columbia Valley, WA

93 points

The 2004 Sequel Syrah is made by John Duval, for 15 years the winemaker of Penfolds Grange, Australia's most famous Shiraz. The fruit was sourced from five vineyards encompassing several AVAs and includes 3% Cabernet Sauvignon in the final blend. Ninety percent of the wine was aged for 18 months in small French oak. Purple/black in color, this superb Syrah offers grilled meat, bacon fat, game and wild blueberry aromas and flavors. On the palate the wine is spicy, layered, and plush with soft tannins and enough acidity to hold things together. This hedonistic effort can be enjoyed now but will easily last for 20+ years. Kudos to Alan Shoup for directing a project in which every wine (and winemaker) turned in an outstanding performance.

2003 Chester-Kidder Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

91 points

The 2003 Chester-Kidder Red Wine is a blend of six varieties, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Syrah, and the balance Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. The wine is made by Gilles Nicault who is also the winemaker in residence at Long Shadows. The wine was aged for 27 months in 95% new French oak. Opaque purple-colored, the wine exhibits a fragrant perfume of pain grille, pencil lead, black currant, and blackberry liqueur. This is followed by a layered, spicy wine with gobs of complex blue and black fruit flavors, soft tannins, and plenty of depth in its lush personality. The well-concealed structure should allow for 3-5 years of further development and the wine should drink well through 2030.

2005 Poet's Leap Riesling

Columbia Valley, WA

91 points

The only white wine in the portfolio is the 2005 Poet's Leap Riesling made by Armin Diel of the renowned Schlossgut Diel in the Nahe River Valley of Germany. This splendid Riesling is light straw-colored with green highlights. It delivers a complex perfume of slate, mineral, a hint of petrol, spring flowers, honey, and green apple. Made in a Spatlese style, with just a touch of sweetness, the wine offers mouth-filling fruit, crisp acidity, and a long, pure finish. Drink it over the next several years with Asian cuisine or as an aperitif. Poet's Leap has no track record for longevity but this wine could well evolve in the manner of its German role model for those willing to set aside a few bottles.

2004 Saggi Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

91 points

The 2004 Saggi Red Wine is made by Ambrogio and Giovanni Folonari of the well-known Tuscan family whose winemaking history dates back to the late 1700s. It is composed of 35% Sangiovese, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Syrah, and 14% Barbera. All but the Syrah comes from the Alder Ridge Vineyard in the Horse Heaven AVA. The wine was aged for 18 months in French oak. Dark ruby/purple in color, it has an excellent nose of earth, leather, cassis and black cherry. This is followed by a smoothly textured wine with excellent depth, soft tannins, and spicy dark fruit flavors. The pure black cherry flavors persist through the lengthy finish. This stylish wine should evolve for several years and drink well through 2025.