



2015 Pedestal Merlot
Columbia Valley
Michel Rolland

Michel Rolland, Pomerol vintner and consultant to many of the world's top wineries, provides the vision for this limited release wine.

Tasting Notes: The 2015 Pedestal offers vibrant aromas of black cherry and ripe blackberries with accents of vanilla and freshly roasted coffee. Expressive and lively on entry, with a richly textured mid-palate and layers of huckleberry, bittersweet chocolate and oak spice that stretch across a lengthy finish.

Vintage: An early spring and hot weather conditions during the summer growing season defined the 2015 Columbia Valley vintage. Building on the success of our ongoing canopy management program, we worked with growers throughout the season to hand-prune and trim each vine to protect the grapes from too much afternoon sun and to establish good airflow inside the canopy while maintaining a uniform fruit zone. When fall arrived, conditions returned to a more typical Columbia Valley weather pattern. Warm autumn days and cool nights finished ripening beautifully, and small, thick-skinned berries marked the vintage and produced outstanding, fruit-forward wines.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes were double-sorted before fermentation to remove any green materials that might impart harsh tannins. Afterwards, most lots were cold soaked to build richness and flavor before undergoing whole-berry fermentation in 1,500-gallon upright wood tanks to add richness on the palate. The finished wine was aged 22 months in French oak barrels, 85% new.

Vineyards: The 2015 Pedestal is a blend of top Columbia Valley vineyards, each carefully chosen to create a layered, complex wine. The Wahluke Slope's Weinbau and Stone Tree Vineyards dominate the blend and give Pedestal its beautiful aromatics, bright fruit, texture and fine tannins. Conner Lee Vineyard adds richness, and Dionysus Vineyard grapes build complexity in the wine.

Blend:
75% Merlot
15% Cabernet Sauvignon
10% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 14.8%
pH: 3.90
TA: 0.58
Production: 2,365 cases