PEDESTAL

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

2019 MERLOT | COLUMBIA VALLEY | MICHEL ROLLAND

TASTING NOTES:

An opulent wine with a core of dark cherry aromas and ripe blackberry flavors framed by notes of bittersweet chocolate and a pleasant hint of graphite. Seamless and well-textured with a lush mouthfeel from entry to mid-palate that carries across a lengthy finish.

VINEYARDS:

The 2019 Pedestal Merlot was predominately grown at Weinbau Vineyard on the Wahluke Slope, a warm area of the Columbia Valley that produces Merlot with layers of fresh, dark fruit and beautiful aromatics. Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon gives the wine its structure. A small amount of Malbec from Sonnet Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills contributes concentration and subtle violet aromatics.

BLEND:
75% Merlot
21% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Malbec

Alcohol: 15.1%
pH: 3.76
TA: 0.60 grams/100ml
Production: 2,615 cases

WINEMAKING:

Hand-harvested grapes were double-sorted before fermentation to remove green materials that might impart harsh tannins. Afterwards, lots were cold soaked to build richness and flavor, then underwent whole-berry fermentation in 1,500-gallon upright French oak tanks. Gentle pump-overs throughout fermentation, enhanced the wine's color and added richness on the palate. Aged 22 months in all French oak barrels, 85% new.

VINTAGE:

The 2019 vintage produced excellent red wines of exceptional quality and consistency. The season started slowly. Unexpected late winter snow held on until mid-March, and as a result, soils were slow to warm; April bud break was delayed, but by May, the temperatures climbed to accelerate bloom. Summer weather was mild with no heat spikes, and the temperatures stayed moderate into the fall. Grapes ripened slowly, but the pace allowed the fruit to reach full physiological maturity, resulting in a vintage notable for its fresh, elegant style.