

Chateau Ste Michelle

A collaboration between Chateau Ste Michelle and Rhône winemaker Michel Gassier , The Pundit exemplifies the power, complexity, and elegance of Syrah.

Tenet The Pundit Syrah 2020

Washington, USA



Alcohol :14,05 %

Composition: 89% Syrah, 8% Mourvèdre, 2% Grenache, 1% Viognier

Region and Vineyards

The **Columbia Valley**, a premier wine-growing region in Washington State, provides the ideal conditions for Syrah. The region benefits from a **continental climate** with warm days and cool nights, ensuring balanced acidity and flavor concentration. The volcanic soils of Columbia Valley contribute minerality and depth to the wines.

For **The Pundit**, grapes were sourced from a diverse range of sub-appellations: **36% from Wahluke Slope**, known for producing ripe, concentrated reds; **29% from Columbia Valley** itself; **17% from Yakima Valley**; and smaller contributions from **Walla Walla, Snipes Mountain, Rattlesnake Hills, Red Mountain, and Horse Heaven Hills**. This blend of terroirs results in a wine with layered complexity and expressive character. The growing season was characterized by a warm spring, a mild summer, and cooler autumn nights, creating ideal conditions for ripe, aromatic fruit.

Winemaking

The blend for **The Pundit** comprises **89% Syrah**, **8% Mourvèdre**, **2% Grenache**, and **1% Viognier**, showcasing both the power of Syrah and the nuanced contributions of Rhône varietals. The grapes were destemmed and sorted using advanced technology, ensuring only the finest fruit was selected.

Gentle pumpovers during fermentation allowed for optimal extraction of flavor and color while minimizing harsh tannins. Following fermentation, the wine was aged for **12 months in oak barrels—28% new French oak**, **2% new American oak**, and **70% neutral oak**—creating a balance of toasty oak notes and preserving the vibrant fruit character.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep purple with ruby highlights.
- **Aroma**: Intense aromas of **blueberry**, **blackberry**, and **plum**, complemented by hints of **violets**, **smoke**, and **spice**.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and richly textured, with flavors of **ripe dark fruit**, **dark chocolate**, and a touch of **black pepper**. The tannins are polished and fine, leading to a long, satisfying finish.

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Did You Know?

The Pundit is part of the Tenet Wines project, a collaboration between Washington's **Chateau Ste Michelle** and Rhône winemaker **Michel Gassier**. This partnership brings together two distinct winemaking cultures to create wines that celebrate the best of both worlds.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Lamb chops with rosemary and garlic**: The wine's bold flavors and refined tannins complement the richness of the lamb.
- **Duck breast with blackberry reduction**: Its dark fruit and spicy notes pair beautifully with the savory-sweet profile of the dish.
- **Mushroom risotto**: The earthy flavors of the mushrooms enhance the wine's depth and complexity.
- **Aged cheddar or Gruyère cheese**: The wine's vibrant acidity and dark fruit balance the nuttiness of the cheese.



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2018)

Featuring high-toned florals with a red-fruited frame and spicy nose, the 2018 Syrah The Pundit Columbia Valley offers red and black peppercorn notions with hints of dusty red flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is mineral-driven on the palate, with a succulent core of acidity wrapped with fine-grained tannins, and it lingers long with a food-friendly and spicy finish. It's a delightful and fresh wine that will continue to deliver pleasure for the next five years. Bravo!



James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2016)

A very complex and fragrant syrah that derives, in part, from whole-cluster fermentation and there’s a core of ripe summer berries and red plums that are dressed in fresh-ground spices. The silky palate carries plenty of ripe blackberry and blue-fruit flavors. Drink or hold.



Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 91 Points (2016)

The 2016 Syrah The Pundit is more streamlined yet has good complexity in its dark berry fruits, ground herbs, and peppery aromas and flavors. Medium bodied, silky and elegant on the palate, with fine tannins, it offers plenty of upfront charm today but also has the balance and length to evolve nicely for 4-6 years.