



## The Wine Advocate – May 11th, 2023

### 2018 Chester-Kidder Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

**93 points**

Composed of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% of Syrah and 8% Petit Verdot, the 2018 Chester Kidder is ripe, juicy and firm in the glass. The nose opens to a dark, dusty core of fruits with notions of graphite, plum skin and blackberry just before elegant oak tones waft with notions of juicy tobacco, cigar box and wet rocks. Full-bodied, tight-knit and balanced on the palate, the wine offers seductive oak tones of sweet vanilla, hints of herbs, succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins. The wine concludes with a gorgeous, lingering finish and will have no problem aging well past its 15th birthday.

### 2019 Chester-Kidder Proprietary Red

Columbia Valley, WA

**94 points**

The 2019 Chester Kidder is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Syrah and 3% Petit Verdot. It has a complex, firm and bold nose that focused on dark fruit aromas of blackberry skin and spiced plum. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a bold and firm-gripping tannic structure that will benefit from an additional year of bottle aging after its release in the fall of 2023. The wine continues to reveal layers of complexity over the firm and food-friendly finish. Decanting is recommended.

### 2020 Feather Cabernet Sauvignon

Columbia Valley, WA

**98 points**

Instantly impressive, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Feather opens to silky, fresh and fleshy dark red and black fruit tones with picturesque rich and ripe notions that sashay out of the glass with elegance, power and precision. Medium to full-bodied, the Cabernet shows incredible depth and breadth with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins. This will have no trouble aging past its 20th birthday. World-class and devastatingly beautiful, the wine continues to somersault across the ever-evolving finish, and it will undoubtedly be well received upon its release in the fall later this year. Mark your calendar now, and run, don't walk to add this to your cellar.

### 2018 Sequel Syrah

Columbia Valley, WA

**91 points**

The 2018 Syrah Sequel gives up aromas of dark roasted espresso beans with bitter dark chocolate with a soft rocky frame. Full-bodied, the wine is firm and offers a spicy mid-palate with hints of baked earth and gripping tannins before lingering onto a broad-shouldered finish. This drinks well for the price. Give it a try.

### 2019 Sequel Syrah

Columbia Valley, WA

**95+ points**

Overflowing with elegance and varietal purity, the 2019 Syrah Sequel offers a crystalline and focused nose with elements of dark cherry, baked earth and dusty flowers with a harmonious and floral lift from 30% whole clusters. Full-bodied and clocking in at 15% alcohol on the label, it doesn't seem as heavy-handed and bold on the palate. The wine demonstrates considerable restraint, exuding elegance and finesse with succulent red fruit and subtly spiced potpourri tones. If you're looking for a big, beefy Syrah with black peppercorns in your face, this is not it. However, if you're looking for a floral, fresh, elegant style of Syrah, look no further!

**2018 Pedestal Merlot****Columbia Valley, WA****93+ points**

Dark-fruited and with a dense and inky core, the 2018 Pedestal Merlot offers aromas of resinous purple flowers with hints of oak and blackberry jus. Full-bodied and firm on the palate, the deep and complex expression will take another year to fill out its shoes. The wine has firm gripping tannins across the mid-palate along with a tight mineral tension, then lingers with persistent notions of spiced plum compote and graphite.

**2019 Pedestal Merlot****Columbia Valley, WA****94 points**

The 2019 Pedestal Merlot was made with 21% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Malbec. The nose opens with a firm backbone of fresh and ripe black plums and dark cherries before delightful oaky essences sway from the glass with notions of baked earth. Full-bodied, the palate offers a firm mouthfeel that lifts with time to reveal a succulent tannic edge and juicy flavors of spiced plums and blackberry skin with brown baking spices, vanilla and nutmeg that resonate with vibrancy and power. The wine continues to evolve and reveal elegant complexities before ending with a long spicy finish with delightful oak tones.

**2018 Saggi Proprietary Red****Columbia Valley, WA****92 points**

Expressive and complex, the 2018 Saggi is made from a blend of 58% Sangiovese, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Syrah. The nose offers a broad and youthful expression with dusty dark red fruits with a firm yet inky generosity and oak essence. Full-bodied, the wine is explosive on the palate with firm tannins that linger through the dense, chewy finish with flint elements and bright red cherry skin flavors.

**2020 Saggi Proprietary Red****Columbia Valley, WA****94 points**

The 2020 Saggi is composed of 62% Sangiovese, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Syrah. The nose opens with classic red fruits and a floral and dusty note that wafts from the glass, then delightful and seductive dark fruit and baked clay notes release with additional time in the glass and swirling. Full-bodied, the Sangiovese blend offers a firm mouthfeel and bright and energetic cherry flavors before dusty florals grip the mid-palate. The wine continues to uncoil, offering notes of black raspberry over the succulent, food-friendly finish and lingering tannic edge. Bravo!

**2018 Pirouette Proprietary Red****Columbia Valley, WA****94 points**

Almost opaque in color, the 2018 Pirouette offers a nose filled with dark, dense, inky fruit aromas with firm layers of black cherry and dusty blackberry and notions of red and purple flowers and bitter black tea. Medium to full-bodied, this Cabernet blend is layered but still has a firm tannic edge that will benefit from an additional year of bottle aging. A fantastic wine, it ends with a tight, complex and elongated finish. I'm going back for a second sip!

**2019 Pirouette Proprietary Red****Columbia Valley, WA****95 points**

Composed of just over 50% Cabernet Sauvignon with 33% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Pirouette starts with a firm backbone of fresh dark red and black fruit tones that waft with dusty florals and succulent oak spices. Full-bodied and with layers of juicy plums, blackberry jus, vanilla and cardamom madeleines, the palate reveals a balanced structure, succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins. The wine glides to a refined and long-lingering finish and will continue to drink well and remain food-friendly for over two decades. Give it a try!

**2017 Sequel Vintage Select Bin 898 Syrah****Columbia Valley, WA****94+ points**

Made from 100% Syrah, the 2017 Sequel Vintage Select Bin 898 is expressive with classic spiced florals and dark-fruited essence with notions of oak and brown baking spices. The wine continues to evolve, revealing secrets with every waft as elegant notions of roasted plums, spiced black cherries and smoked herbs float out of the glass. Full-bodied, the Syrah opens to flavors of dark red fruit tones, black raspberry and smoked lavender before ending with a lingering, mineral-laced finish.

**2018 Sequel Vintage Select Bin 898 Syrah    Columbia Valley, WA****99 points**

Made from 100% hand-harvested Syrah, the 2018 Sequel Vintage Select Bin 898 is fresh, pure and elegant with succulent red fruit aromas, fresh potpourri and layers of fresh florals that sashay with focus, precision and finesse before spicy oak tones sing in unison from resting in 75% new French oak. Full-bodied, fresh and fleshy, the wine has impeccable balance on the palate and is seductively layered with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins, overflowing with immense pleasure and picturesque black raspberry and pink peppercorn flavors. The Bin 898 continues to uncoil and unwind, revealing a powerhouse wine that exudes fresh, spicy red fruit tones emanating with precision and focus. Bravo! Hands down, this is the best Vintage Select Bin 898 yet. Keep an eye out for its release date, and good luck finding any of the 1,176 bottles produced.

**2017 Shoup Proprietary Red****Columbia Valley, WA****95+ points**

The 2017 Shoup is made from 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 16% Petit Verdot and 5% Malbec. The nose is mineral with elements of dusty dark herbs and red and black fruit tones before an elegant yet rustic tone of charred roses and vanilla wafts from the glass. Full-bodied, the palate unfolds to display complex layers with fantastic mineral tension and picturesque dark red and black fruit flavors with a delightful sway of graphite, sage and pencil shavings. The wine continues to delight and please over the long-lingering and subtly spiced finish.

**2018 Shoup Proprietary Red****Columbia Valley, WA****98 points**

Having passed away in November 2022, Allen Shoup's namesake wine lives on. The 2018 Shoup is made from 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, with the remainder composed of co-fermented Petit Verdot and Malbec. The nose is big, bold and firm with spicy and juicy layers of oak that shine with seductive aromas of spiced plum compote and juicy black cherry. Full-bodied, rich and round, the palate offers a generously lush and juicy core of ripe fruit flavors and a fantastic and indulgent structure. Fine-grained tannins melt away to reveal succulent acidity with an opulent and abundant frame with generous oak. The wine glides to a bold, fresh, oak-driven finish that will remain food-friendly for decades.

**2019 Feather Cab Sauv, Vintage Select****Columbia Valley, WA****100 points**

Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2019 Feather Vintage Select Reserve is a highly selective blend of small lot, barrel-fermented Cabernets crafted from Feather's best barrels. If you're a fan of the regular Feather bottling, just wait until you try the upcoming release of the 2019 Vintage Select! It's seductive, finessed, rich, round and undeniably the champion of the lineup this year, offering a world-class Cabernet with an alluring nose that tempts with aromas of dark cherry, pure oak essences and picturesque floral notes. Medium to full-bodied, the palate starts to unwind with a soft floral grip and oak spices of vanilla and cardamom that sing in harmony and unison with devastatingly gorgeous consequences. I find myself returning to the glass, continuing to smell the wine as it offers a seductively floral elegance and such profound pleasure that just smelling the wine gives me goosebumps. But once I cross the threshold and taste the wine, the palate becomes intoxicatingly mesmerizing and the definition of elegance and grace. For anyone who thinks that Washington Cabernet needs to be big and bold and generously layered with gobs of sappy, over-oaked dark fruit should reconsider; let this wine be the guiding light for any non-believers that Washington State can produce elegant, world-class Cabernet that can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best that the world has to offer. Head and shoulders above the rest of the lineup this year, I know that once the 2019 Feather Vintage Select is released, it will surely evaporate on contact and be sold out everywhere. If you're able to, buy as much of this limited-production masterpiece as you can, since it literally leaves me silent and breathless with goosebumps as I try to remember every detail of every layer while smelling the wine, as it imprints lasting memories of what iconic, age-worthy, world-class Cabernet Sauvignon from Washington State can be and—more importantly—what all future Cabernets that possess elegance and grace will be measured against. I consider myself lucky, privileged and fortunate to have experienced such an extraordinary and profound Cabernet. My only regret is that, with such limited production, there isn't enough to go around for everyone. At only \$110 upon release, this is the deal of the century, as it should be three times the price. Good luck finding some. Keep your eye on winemaker Gilles Nicault for great things to come!

**2021 Cymbal Sauvignon Blanc****Columbia Valley, WA****90 points**

After some rigorous swirling in the glass, the 2021 Cymbal Sauvignon Blanc opens with lemon, lime and grapefruit aromas before offering hints of dusty citrus blossoms and soft oak essences. Medium-bodied, the wine offers citrusy and softly oaky tones from the roughly 20% new French oak. It ends with a food-friendly finish.

**2021 Poet's Leap Riesling****Columbia Valley, WA****90 points**

Fresh, lively and crisp with citrus tones that waft with purity, the 2021 Riesling Poet's Leap is succulent and juicy. Light-bodied, zesty and nimble, it has succulent acidity, fresh citrus tones and a balanced and delightfully floral notion of honeysuckle and apple blossom. The Riesling concludes with a fresh and crisp finish, delivering fantastically for the price.

**2020 Dance Chardonnay****Columbia Valley, WA****93 points**

Opening to a gorgeous nose of fresh apples with sweet Meyer lemons, yellow pears and exotic spices, the 2020 Chardonnay Dance is succulent and fresh. Medium to full-bodied, the mouthfeel is slightly spicy with a subtle leesy note from 17 months spent on the lees, and it expresses flavors of lemon pastry cream along with a delicate mineral tension and soft oak essence. The wine continues to unwind and uncoil over the succulent and fresh finish leaving behind slightly oaky essences that govern with food-friendly crisp acidity.