

1999 Pepper Bridge Vineyard Apogee Walla Walla Valley Appellation

Awards and Acclaims

Wine Spectator

Score: 93 points
"Cellar Selection"

Date Reviewed: May 15, 2002

"Round and beautifully focused. Packs in gobs of black cherry and currant, echoing the flavors on a fine-grained, harmonious finish that favors fruit and minimizes the oak character. Impressive length promises a long life. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2008." – H.S.

Wine Enthusiast

Score: 90 points
Date Reviewed: June 1, 2002

"The blend here is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, making a soft, seductive, sweetly fruity red wine that is immediately flat-out delicious. Consumer-pleasing flavors of ripe cherries and berries mingle with plenty of smooth, chocolaty oak, and seamless tannins. Rich, and decadent and really good." – P.G.

Blind Tasting of the World's Great Cabernets – New York City & Chicago

Date Reviewed: Spring 2000

*Washington had its comeuppance with Napa and Bordeaux during the spring of 2000 at a blind tasting in New York, and then again in Chicago! Seventy-five of NY's best sommeliers and wine trade **blind tasted** eight wines from the 1999 vintage and rank ordered their favorites from 1 to 8. The rankings were:*

1. Columbia Crest 1999 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley - \$28
2. Kiona 1999 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Mountain - \$35
3. L'Ecole N° 41 1999 Apogee, Pepper Bridge Vineyard, Walla Walla Valley - \$42
4. Chateau Ste. Michelle 1999 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley - \$34
5. Caymus 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley - \$70
6. Robert Mondavi 1999 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley - \$125
7. Chateau Palmer 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon - \$76
8. Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1999 - \$145

With such a runaway showing, some questioned the logic of a repeat tasting. The victory was repeated in Chicago ... the same three Washington wines came out on top, with L'Ecole N° 41 Apogee taking 2nd place by one vote behind the Columbia Crest Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

Score: 88 points

Date Reviewed: September 2002

"Spicy oak, raspberry, cedar, milk chocolate and game on the nose. Smooth and juicy in the mouth, with red berry, game, leather and oak flavors. Finishes firmly tannic but not dry, despite the noticeable oakiness."

Wine Press Northwest

Score: Platinum

Date Reviewed: Spring 2003

Score: Outstanding

Date Reviewed: Fall 2002

"Winemaker Marty Clubb's Bordeaux-style blend of Cab, Merlot and Cab Franc shows off classic aromas of black currants, pencil shaving and moist earth along with rich, penetrating flavors of huckleberries, chocolate and raspberries. A big, enticing wine that won gold medals at the NorthWest Wine Summit and Washington State Wine Competition." – Andy Perdue

NorthWest Wine Summit

Score: Gold Medal

7th Annual competition, 2002

The 2002 NorthWest Wine Summit concluded its 7th Annual competition with the selection of the superlative wines in an event that evaluated over 700 wines.

Wine & Spirits

Score: 86 points

Date Reviewed: October 2002

"Tough and bound in, this young wine shows little of itself beyond its chunky weight, the thick cut of its tannin, the bristle of its acidity. There's a mineral warmth to the tannin, a mint-leaf edge to the acidity, but the fruit hasn't come forward. Give this time to evolve." – Joshua Greene

Washington State Wine Competition – Central WA State Fair

Score: Gold

Date Reviewed: June 2002