

# L'Ecole N° 41

## 2005 Seven Hills Vineyard Estate Merlot Walla Walla Valley Appellation

### Awards and Acclaims

#### Wine Spectator

Score: 91 points

Date Reviewed: March 31, 2008

*"Smooth and velvety, with a lovely core of raspberry and currant flavors, shaded with green olive and subtle herbal notes as the finish lingers effortlessly and expressively. Drink now through 2013."* – H.S.

#### Wine Advocate

Score: 89 points

Date Reviewed: August 31, 2007

*"L'Ecole N° 41 does well with Bordeaux varietals. The 2005 Merlot—Seven Hills Estate includes 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc. It spent 18 months in 60% new French oak. Dark ruby-colored, it has a lovely array of cassis and blackberry scents. This is followed by a Merlot with a bit more depth and structure than its older sibling. Nicely balanced, it should evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2020."* – Jay Miller

#### Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

Score: 87 points

Date Reviewed: November/December 2007

*"Good medium ruby-red. Dark berries, violet and mint on the nose, along with a piney nuance. Juicy, spicy dark berry flavors show good intensity but are a bit rigid and clenched, in need of more sweetness. Not bad but finishes quite tannic and a bit dry-edged."*

#### Washington State Wine Competition – Central WA State Fair

Score: Silver Medal

Date Reviewed: June 21, 2008

#### Seattle Wine Awards – 2008

Score: 2008 Grand Award of Excellence/Bronze

Date Reviewed: April 26 & 27, 2008

*The Seattle Wine Awards is the most prestigious and comprehensive independent Washington wine recognition program in the world. Sixteen of Seattle's most prominent wine professionals tasted and evaluated 613 Washington wines in a single-blind format and awarded the top wines with Gold, Silver and Bronze – Grand Awards of Excellence. The 2008 Outstanding*

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*Washington Wine Award honor those wines, which by panel consensus were considered outstanding and eligible for the highest recognition of Gold, Silver or Bronze.*

## **Seattle Magazine**

Date Reviewed: October 2007

*“One of the purest, most elegant expressions of this grape outside Pomerol (in the Bordeaux region) in the world. Merlot’s signature floral lift, soft dusty tannins, and slight cedar spice surround bursting-ripe chocolate-covered Bing cherry fruit. Winemaker Marty Clubb is a master with this fruit. Pairs with pork rillettes pâté and rhubarb compote.” – Shayn Bjornholm, M.S.*

## **NorthWest Wine Summit**

Score: Silver Medal

13<sup>th</sup> Annual competition, 2008

*The 2008 NorthWest Wine Summit concluded its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual competition with the selection of the superlative wines in an event that evaluated over 1,000 wines.*

## **Washington State Wine Competition – Central WA State Fair**

Score: Silver Medal

Date Reviewed: June 21, 2008

## **Wine Press Northwest**

Score: Excellent

Date Reviewed: Fall 2007

*“The year after a hard winter can be difficult to manage because the vines want to put out plenty of growth. Yet the vineyard managers of Seven Hills were able to create a balance and grow grapes that showed off aromas of blueberries and dark cherries, along with bold flavors of black cherries and ample tannins.” – Andy Perdue*

## **Patterson’s Tasting Panel**

Score: 90 points

Date Reviewed: September 2007

*“Pure and lively with excellent acid structure and balance.” – Anthony Dias Blue*

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## Northwest Palate

Score: Recommended

Date Reviewed: January/February 2008

*“Cinnamon and orange peel spice scents nearly overtake the dark currant and plum fruit lurking in the back of the nose. The same fruits are clean and rich on the palate, though also dry and angular thanks to ample acidity. The tannins are remarkably pillowy, and the overall feel is of elegant restraint. The cinnamon spice shows up again on the lingering finish. Cellar 2-3 years.”*

## San Jose Mercury News

### Walla Walla wineries producing top-notch cabernet, merlot, syrah

Date Reviewed: June 25, 2008

*“...The wines produced by Walla Walla wineries range from barbera to zinfandel, but the reputations of three grape varieties have been firmly established: cabernet sauvignon, merlot and more recently, syrah. L'Ecole N° 41 also has a lovely 2005 Merlot from Seven Hills Vineyard that's rich and bright, with black cherry fruit, a hint of anise and firm tannins...” – Laurie Daniel*