

L'Ecole

No 41

2008 Syrah Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

The growing region in Washington State is ideally suited to maximize the full expression of Syrah. Spicy, rich and complex, with soft tannins and bright acidity, our Columbia Valley Syrah is the perfect food pairing wine.

VINEYARDS

Stone Tree, Bacchus, Candy Mountain, Mirage, Estate Seven Hills, Clifton and Alder Ridge

VINTAGE

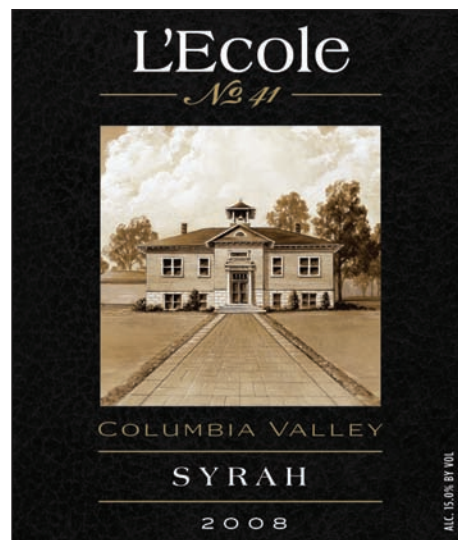
- A slow, cool spring in 2008 delayed bud break, but warm May weather set the stage for uniform bloom and fruit set.
- Summer heat units were normal minus the typical July heat spikes. Windier conditions increased vine stress resulting in added effort to manage canopy growth for balance. August veraison was smooth requiring very little green thinning.
- Near perfect fall conditions resulted in only a slightly later than normal harvest for most varieties.
- Considered a cool year, we saw higher acidity levels with yields slightly below average.

WINEMAKING

- Nearly 30 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence. We are engaged in growing and making 100% of our wines.
- Each lot was hand harvested ripe and gently crushed into 1.5 ton stainless steel fermenters.
- Gentle handling of the fruit through hand punch downs and gravity assisted movements were utilized throughout the entire winemaking process.
- The wine was cleanly racked to 100% small oak barrels, mostly two years and older, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

This luscious and balanced Syrah presents aromas of ripe blackberry, earth and spice. The wine shows rich black currant, peppercorn and graphite through a finely textured mineral finish.



HARVEST DATA

<i>Harvest Dates</i>	MID SEPTEMBER – MID OCTOBER, 2008
<i>Average Brix</i>	25.5°
<i>Average pH</i>	3.42
<i>Average Acidity</i>	6.4 g/L

WINE DATA

<i>Composition</i>	95% SYRAH, 5% GRENACHE
<i>pH</i>	3.81
<i>Total Acidity</i>	6.1 g/L
<i>Alcohol</i>	15.0%
<i>Bottling Date</i>	APRIL 8, 2010
<i>Release Date</i>	JUNE 2011
<i>Case Production</i>	2,250 CASES