

2014 Apogee

Pepper Bridge Vineyard · Walla Walla Valley

94 points, The Wine Advocate, www.RobertParker.com, June 2017

"The most sweetly fruited, voluptuous and hedonist in the lineup, the 2014 Apogee, Pepper Bridge Vineyard is made from a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 15% Malbec and 4% Cabernet Franc. Sweet blackcurrants, licorice, crushed rocks and graphite notes flow to a sweetly fruited, full-bodied, pleasure bent beauty that has enough baby fat to warrant short term cellaring. It's going to have two decades of overall longevity."—Jeb Dunnuck

94 points - Stephen Tanzer, Vinous, October 2017

"Saturated bright medium ruby. Very dark, almost inky aromas of cassis, blackberry, licorice, bitter chocolate and violet, plus a whiff of leather. Big, rich and mouthfilling but not heavy, with its sexy sweetness nicely buffered by harmonious acidity. Very concentrated, fine-grained wine with wonderfully suave, late-arriving tannins and slowly building length. This complete, balanced, edge-free wine won't require a lot of time to provide great pleasure but it should also evolve beautifully."

— Stephen Tanzer

93 points – Decanter World Wine Awards 2017, <https://awards.decanter.com>

"Black fruit and spice on the nose; savoury, quite fine-grained tannins and fresh acids on the palate. Good concentration and balance of tannins."—DWWA Judges

92 points, Year's Best US Cabernet & Blends, Wine & Spirits, December 2017

"A blend of one-half cabernet, thirty percent merlot, and the rest Malbec and cabernet franc, this wine give off an impression of loess even in its aromatics, where scents of red fruit seem sprinkled with wind-borne dust. The red plum and red cherry flavors meet a leafy, vinous, turfy savor, needing cellar time before unleashing it on a steak."

— Patrick Comiskey

90 points, Wine Enthusiast, July 2017

"Cabernet Sauvignon makes up half of this wine, with the balance Merlot (31%), Malbec (15%) and Cabernet Franc. Barrel notes of vanilla and baking spice are up front, followed by herb and dark fruit tones that are backed by lively acidity. It currently drinks very tight. Give it some time in the cellar or an extended decant. Best after 2020."—Sean Sullivan

89 points, Wine Spectator, 2017 (web only), www.winespectator.com

"Trim and firm, with a core of cherry tannins that distracts from the well-structured blackberry, crushed stone and black olive notes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2019 through 2024."—Tim Fish

Excellent, Great Northwest Wine, December 31, 2017, www.greatnorthwestwine.com

"Since 1993, the Clubbs have been targeting Norm McKibben's Pepper Bridge Vineyard for the Apogee – their Left Bank-inspired blend that's half Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot (31%), Malbec (15%) and Cabernet Franc (4%). It's another stately expression from the little schoolhouse in Lowden, Wash., with aromas of cassis and cherries with tarragon, juniper berry and Graham cracker. The bold structure bodes well for the cellar with juiciness as cherry, pomegranate and boysenberry dominate the flavors."—Andy Perdue & Eric Degerman

Medals & Competitions

Double Gold – Cascadia Wine Competition, 2017

Gold – Sunset International Wine Competition, 2017

Silver – Decanter World Wine Awards, 2017

Silver – TEXSOM International Wine Awards, 2017

Silver – San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, 2017

Bronze – Seattle Wine Awards, 2017