

L'Ecole

No 41

2015 Frenchtown – Red Wine Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Frenchtown, Walla Walla Valley's first settlement, was founded by French Canadians in the early 1800s. A thriving viticulture and wine making community was established in the Valley by the 1860s. This Frenchtown wine salutes these pioneers. With the highest quality in mind, this blend offers exceptional value for its price.

VINTAGE

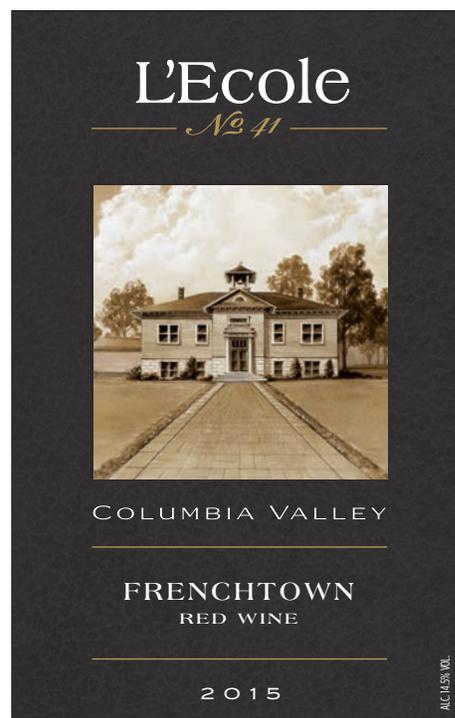
- The 2015 vintage in Washington is now the warmest vintage on record, exceeding the already warm 2013 and 2014 vintages.
- Bud break was two or three weeks early (end of March to first of April). That set a pattern for the year with flowering, fruit set, Veraison, and harvest occurring similarly early.
- An unusual number of excessive heat days in July (over 95 F) resulted in some vine shut down and early exposure to sunburn. Proper irrigation and canopy management were critical to ensure vine health and quality fruit health during the unusually hot July.
- Mid-August temperatures moderated with cooler nights stimulating color and structure development. High level smoke from wild fires reduced sunlight and photosynthesis for a two week period in August, delaying maturity of some vineyards. Classically moderate fall temperatures kicked in extending hang-time for later maturing varieties.
- Vines adapted to the three year warm cycle, delivering the earliest harvest on record with lower yields due to smaller berries, higher sugars and lower acids, yet deeply colored structured reds with exciting potential.

WINEMAKING

- Over 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.
- The wine was aged 9 months in primarily neutral French and American oak barrels, then bottle aged 6 additional months prior to release.

TASTING NOTES

Frenchtown shows aromas of wild berries, red cherry, black currant, and anise. The generous, fresh fruit flavors remain focused through an integrated finish.



WINE DATA

Composition

75% BORDEAUX	25% RHONE
45% Merlot	19% Syrah
25% Cabernet Sauvignon	5% Grenache
4% Malbec	1% Mourvèdre
1% Cabernet Franc	

pH 3.75

Total Acidity 6.3 g/L

Alcohol 14.5%

Bottling Date MAY 23-25, 2016

Release Date DECEMBER 2016

Case Production 6,000