

2015 Estate Merlot Walla Walla Valley

93 points – James Suckling,
www.JamesSuckling.com
May 2018

“This shows more tar and asphalt than others. Blackberry and blueberry undertones. Black olives, too. Full-bodied, very juicy and intense with tangy acidity and dusty tannins. A fun and inquisitive wine. Drink in 2020.” – James Suckling

92 points, Washington Wine Blog,
www.washingtonwineblog.com,
November 2018

“This wine shows an inky color and starts off with a bouquet of smoked brisket, black tea, anise and white pepper that build in the glass. I’m astonished how the non-fruit aromas are shining brilliantly. The palate is plush, showing light tannins and black fruit flavors with smoke and a touch of chocolate. Downright delicious, this effort will cellar well for decades. Drink 2018-2030.” – WWB Editors

91 points, Stephen Tanzer, Vinous,
www.Vinous.com,
November 2018

“Bright ruby-red. Aromas of boysenberry, blueberry and sexy sweet oak; more purple than the Columbia Valley Merlot. Fatter and glossier than that wine as well, with its notes of licorice, menthol, minerals and herbs in harmony with terrific dark berry sweetness of fruit. Fine-grained, chocolatey wine with a serious tannic spine that should support aging. Owner Marty Clubb says that Ferguson provides the backbone and minerality of this wine, while Seven Hills is the source of its perfumed, pretty side.” – Stephen Tanzer

91 points – Jeb Dunnuck, www.JebDunnuck.com
April 2018

“The 2015 Merlot Estate (80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc) is a more complete wine, offering outstanding notes of blackcurrants, tobacco leaf, and spice, medium to full-bodied richness, and a layered, balanced, expansive texture. Brought up in 30% new French oak, drink this silky, charming, balanced effort over the coming 5-6 years.” – Jeb Dunnuck

90+ points, The Wine Advocate,
www.RobertParker.com,
June 2018

“Reticent aromas of dark fruits, chocolate and loamy soil introduce the 2015 Merlot Walla Walla Valley, a medium-bodied, layered and expansive wine that marries a lavish attack with a deep, nicely focused core, but it concludes with a somewhat rustic, cheny finish. Like many 2015s, this is carrying a bit more hard tannin than other recent renditions, so a few years’ patience is required.”

– William Kelley

89 points, Wine Spectator, www.winespectator.com,
October 2018

“Refined but tightly structured, showing energetic currant, dusty anise and spice flavors that finish with firm tannins. Best from 2020 through 2024.” – Tim Fish

18.5+/20 points - Rand Sealey’s Review of
Washington Wines,
www.reviewofwashingtonwines.com
April 2018

“Composed of 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cab Franc - 50% from Seven Hills and 50% from Ferguson - this offers a brick red color and a lovely nose of raspberries, cherries, plums, crushed red roses, mulberry, tobacco, cedar and rosemary. The flavors are ample yet focused, with notes of red licorice, cocoa, French roast, loam and basalt. The back reveals sensations of pressed berries, roasted nuts, mocha and graphite, all culminating nicely in a balanced fine tannin and vivid fruit acid finish.” – Rand Sealey

Medals & Competitions

Gold – Walla Walla Valley Wine competition, 2018

L'Ecole

Nº 41

AWARDS & ACCLAIMS

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88 points – Wine Enthusiast, www.winemag.com
October 2018

“This wine is half from Ferguson Vineyard with the other half from Seven Hills. The aromas are light and high toned, with notes of red cherry, mocha, dark chocolate and spice. The flavors are medium bodied, with tart acidity and quite firm tannins that need some time to soften.” – Sean Sullivan

‘Me, Merlot & I: Drinking Merely Merlot’ – Into Wine, www.intowine.com, October 2018

“From Walla Walla in Washington State comes this more earthy expression of Merlot. Made from 80% Merlot with 10% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, there is the upfront black berry, black cherry and boysenberry, with back notes of sage, toasted cedar wood, but also a bright acidity and mineral notes that flesh out the wine. Though 2015 was exceptionally warm in Walla Walla, this wine is still rooted in its basalt soils giving the wine a deeper experience.” – Michael Cervin