

## 2015 Estate Merlot Walla Walla Valley

**93 points** – James Suckling, [www.JamesSuckling.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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, cherry 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](http://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](http://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

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**Gold** – Walla Walla Valley Wine competition, 2018

**Bronze** – San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, 2019