

L'Ecole

N^o 41

2016 Estate Syrah – Seven Hills Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Washington State's climate and soil is ideally suited to maximize the varietal characteristics of Syrah. Crafted from some of the earliest Walla Walla Valley plantings, our Estate Syrah manifests old world attributes of earth, spice and game in combination with the new world profile of bold, expressive and concentrated fruit.

SEVEN HILLS VINEYARD

L'Ecole N^o 41 is a partner in the 190 acre acclaimed Seven Hills Vineyard, which is planted in wind-blown loess of geologically young and mineral rich soils. Originally planted in 1981, this Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe vineyard was recognized as one of the Ten Great Vineyards of the World by *Wine & Spirits Magazine*.

VINTAGE

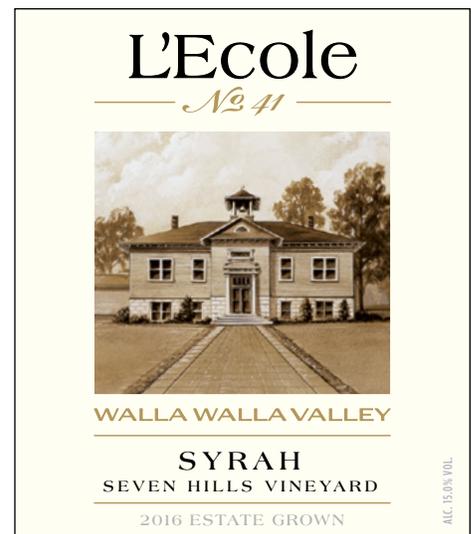
- The 2016 vintage looks like another spectacular and large harvest for Washington State; it started early with a mild winter, hot spring, and early bud break, suggesting another warm year was on the way.
- Moderate June weather was ideal for bloom and fruit set.
- July temperatures were lower than normal, allowing for healthy berry and cluster growth.
- Continued mild weather through August and September stretched the growing season allowing the fruit to ripen gradually and evenly, with lower sugars and higher acidity.
- The longer hang-time produced fantastic balance of flavor and structure in both the white and red varieties.

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.
- Each block was hand harvested. About 20% fermented whole cluster on stems while the remaining was 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, 40% new, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

This beautifully balanced Estate Syrah marries savory aromas of olive tapenade and black pepper with floral notes of violet. The expansive palate shows flavors of dense dark fruit, bitter chocolate, and barrel spice that give way to a concentrated earthy mineral finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 8 – 15, 2016
Average tons/acre	3.5
Average Brix	25.1°
Average pH	3.45
Average Acidity	6.1 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	100% SYRAH
pH	3.74
Total Acidity	6.6 g/L
Alcohol	15.0%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 20, 2018
Release Date	MAY 2019
Case Production	1,000