

# L'Ecole

No 41

## 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon – Walla Walla Valley

### WINEMAKER COMMENT

This wine is a blend of five prestigious vineyard sites representing three unique soil types in the Walla Walla Valley. Its old world structure, dense dark fruit flavors and elegant tannins exemplify the best of Walla Walla.

### VINEYARDS

This Cabernet Sauvignon reflects the diversity of terroir in the Walla Walla Valley from vineyards planted in:

**Fractured basalt** – Estate Ferguson

**Ice-age flood silts** – Pepper Bridge

**Wind-blown loess** – Estate Seven Hills, Loess & Summit View

### VINTAGE

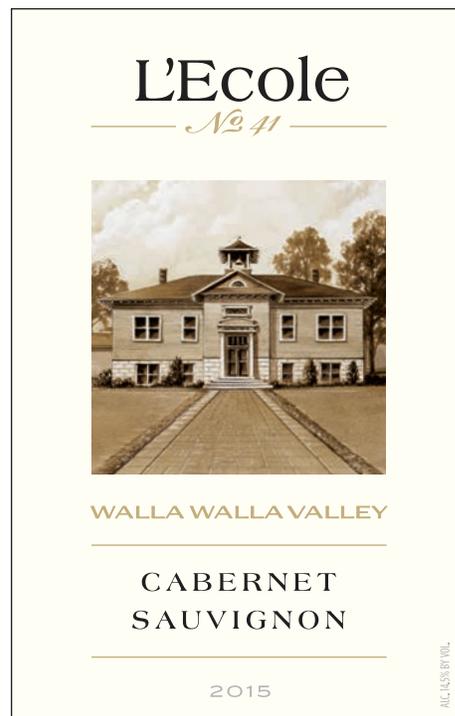
- The 2015 vintage in Washington is now the warmest vintage on record, exceeding the already warm 2013 and 2014 vintages.
- Bud break was two or three weeks early (end of March to first of April). That set a pattern for the year with flowering, fruit set, Veraison, and harvest occurring similarly early.
- 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.
- Each lot was hand harvested ripe and 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 French oak barrels, 40% new, with five rackings over 22 months.

### TASTING NOTES

*With an elegant, old world structure, this sophisticated Cabernet shows savory aromas, rose petal, and cocoa. A robust core of blueberry and plum with notes of black currant and cigar box are framed with polished tannins on a rich, harmonious finish.*



### HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 11-28, 2015
Average tons/acre	3.1
Average Brix	26.3°
Average pH	3.32
Average Acidity	6.6 g/L

### WINE DATA

Composition	100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
pH	3.74
Total Acidity	6.6 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JULY 10-11, 2017
Release Date	SEPTEMBER 2018
Case Production	2,295