

# L'Ecole

N<sup>o</sup> 41

## 2014 Estate Ferguson – Ferguson Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

### WINEMAKER COMMENT

Ferguson is L'Ecole N<sup>o</sup> 41's newest single vineyard estate Bordeaux blend from the Walla Walla Valley. In the tradition of Perigee – Seven Hills Vineyard and Apogee – Pepper Bridge Vineyard, Ferguson reflects a unique micro-climate and geological profile. This wine shares its name with our newest estate vineyard, also called Ferguson, of which L'Ecole is the sole wine producer.

### FERGUSON VINEYARD

Ferguson Vineyard is a stunning, high elevation site overlooking a panoramic view of the Walla Walla Valley. With 30 acres planted, vines are rooted in fractured basalt rock from 15-million-year-old ancient lava flows overlaid with a thin layer of wind-blown, glacial loess. The vineyard is Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

### VINTAGE

- The 2014 vintage was a repeat of the warm 2013 vintage with heat units nearly identical, and no unusual winter frost, pest, or disease pressure.
- Bud break was early, followed by a warm spring and relatively early bloom. Fruit set was near ideal. Slowing tactics were implemented such as delayed thinning and leafing to delay veraison and ultimately harvest.
- Temperatures cooled mid-August stretching out the hang-time to complete veraison. Berry size and berry count per cluster were slightly up resulting in healthy crop yields.
- Modest fall day-time temperatures and cool nights resulted in a rich and vibrant structure with bold color development. Overall warmer conditions delivered ample sugars and surprisingly strong acids, particularly in our higher elevation sites.

### 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 and 5 ton open-topped 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, 50% new, with five rackings over 22 months.

### TASTING NOTES

*Ferguson's flavor profile is distinctly influenced by its basalt soil. This wine offers complex aromas of espresso, tobacco, and dark fruit with flint and graphite minerality. Intricate layers in the mid-palate are balanced with natural acidity leading to a robust and lingering finish.*

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N<sup>o</sup> 41



WALLA WALLA VALLEY

### FERGUSON

VINEYARD

2014 ESTATE GROWN

56% Cabernet Sauvignon | 32% Merlot | 6% Cabernet Franc | 6% Malbec

### HARVEST DATA

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Harvest Dates     | SEPTEMBER 17 –<br>OCTOBER 6, 2014 |
| Average tons/acre | 3.5                               |
| Average Brix      | 26.0°                             |
| Average pH        | 3.20                              |
| Average Acidity   | 6.8 g/L                           |

### WINE DATA

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Composition     | 56% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,<br>32% MERLOT,<br>6% CABERNET FRANC, 6% MALBEC |
| pH              | 3.63   |
| Total Acidity   | 6.6 g/L  |
| Alcohol         | 14.5%  |
| Bottling Date   | JULY 13, 2016  |
| Release Date    | APRIL 2017   |
| Case Production | 1,280  |