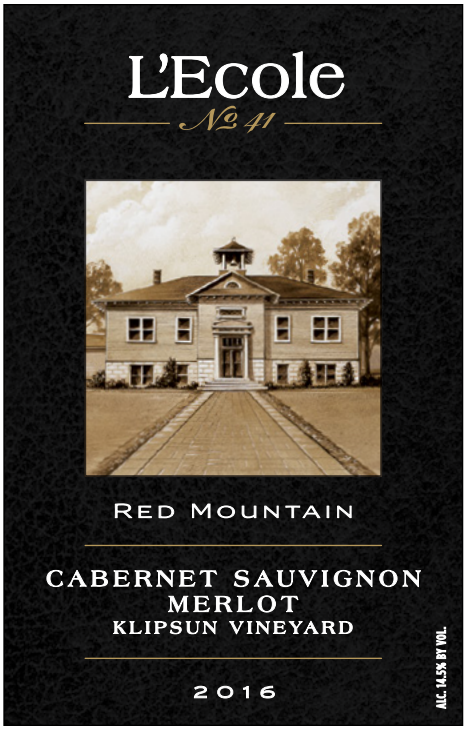
L'Ecole
№ 41

2016 Cabernet Sauvignon – Merlot
Klipsun Vineyard – Red Mountain



KLIPSUN VINEYARD

One of the most celebrated vineyards on Red Mountain, Klipsun was named "One of the Top 25 Vineyards in the World" by *Wine & Spirits Magazine* in 2003. Located on the southwest slope of Red Mountain, its dry and warm environment is ideal for Bordeaux varietals. Originally planted in 1984, the vineyard now includes more than 120 acres of vines.

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

- Nearly 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 ripe at 2.5 tons per acre and gently crushed into 1 ½ 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.
- A two week maceration on the skins allowed us to build structure and backbone into this classic Bordeaux-blend.
- The wine was cleanly racked to 100% small French oak barrels, 35% new, with four rackings over 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

Made with fruit from distinguished old blocks of the acclaimed Klipsun Vineyard, this robust structured Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blend shows cigar box aromatics that build into rich flavors of ripe blackberry, dark chocolate, coffee, and leather. A fine-grained tannin structure balances a strong finish that showcases a wine that will continue to age beautifully in the bottle.

HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	MERLOT – SEPT. 9, 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON – SEPT. 24, 2016
Average tons/acre	3.5
Average Brix	25.3°
Average pH	3.40
Average Acidity	5.1 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	60% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 40% MERLOT
pH	3.79
Total Acidity	6.0 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JULY 16, 2018
Release Date	APRIL 2019
Case Production	470

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