

L'Ecole

No 41

2016 Merlot Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole N° 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of premium Merlot and this wine delivers with great structure, color and balanced acidity.

VINEYARDS

Estate Seven Hills, Candy Mountain, Pepper Bridge, Bacchus & Dionysus, Weinbau, Klipsun, Estate Ferguson

VINTAGE

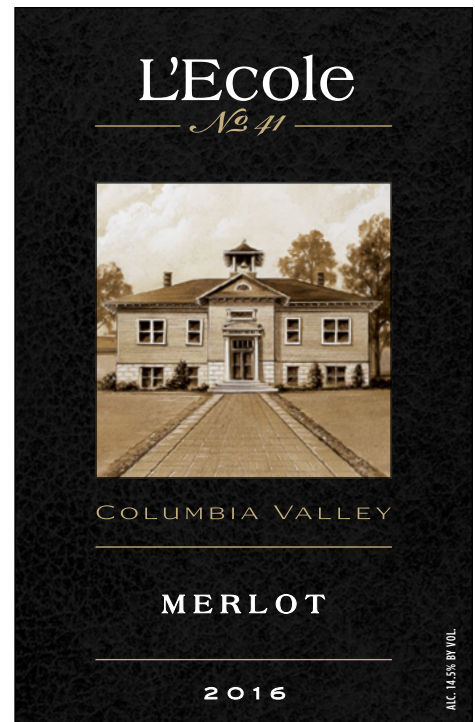
- The 2016 vintage looks like another spectacular and large harvest for Washington State; it started early with a mild winter, hot spring, and early bud break, suggesting another warm year was on the way.
- Moderate June weather was ideal for bloom and fruit set.
- July temperatures were lower than normal, 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 lot was hand harvested ripe and gently crushed into 1.5 and 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, 30% new, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

Layered with enticing aromas of black cherry, rose petal, and plum, this full bodied yet balanced Merlot shows layers of baking spices and cocoa with a seamless finish of fine-grained tannin.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
Average Brix	25.2°
Average pH	3.38
Average Acidity	6.0 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	78% MERLOT, 16% CABERNET FRANC, 3% PETIT VERDOT, 3% MALBEC
pH	3.62
Total Acidity	6.8 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 12 – 14, 2018
Release Date	MAY 2019
Case Production	4,600