

L'ECOLE

No 41

TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

2016 Apogee, Pepper Bridge Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

95 PTS

JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck - April 2019

The 2016 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard comes all from the Pepper Bridge Vineyard in Walla Walla and is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 11% Malbec, and 4% Cabernet Franc raised in 50% new French oak. Its saturated purple color is followed by a nuanced, layered bouquet of crème de cassis, spiced black raspberries, graphite, spring flowers, and classy oak. It's rich, medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and in need of 3-5 years of bottle age. It's a brilliant wine that will see its 20th birthday in fine form.

94 PTS

JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling - February 2019

Tons of cherries, redcurrants and wild herbs make the nose of this totally distinctive red blend really exciting. The palate more than confirms this impression with a stunning balance of freshness, vibrant fruit and focused power, through the long, sleek and complex finish. A blend of 60 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 25 per cent merlot, 11 per cent Malbec and four per cent cabernet franc. Try to wait until at least 2021.

94 PTS, YEAR'S BEST US CABERNETS & BLENDS

Wine & Spirits, Patrick Comiskey - August 2019

The 2016 Apogee is a blend of 60 percent cabernet sauvignon and 25 percent merlot, the rest Malbec and cabernet franc. The cabernet gives the wine some heft while the merlot and other varieties seem to open it – to save it from becoming monolithic and overly compact. This has the scent of Mexican chocolate, spiced mocha and tobacco leaf, the flavor backed by a subtle sweetness, a deep core of plum and fig that mingles with the spice notes effortlessly. It's a splendid achievement for ribs.

93 PTS

International Wine Report, Owen Bargreen - April 2019

The 2016 'Apogee' is a compelling blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon with 25% Merlot and 11% Malbec with 4% Cabernet Franc. Showing off a deep core, this opens with a beautiful bouquet of red currant red cherry candy and blackberry cobbler with herbal undertones. The palate shows good mid-palate ripeness and freshness. Dark berry and mocha flavors with hints of violets mingle with great acidity.

Displaying wonderful ageing potential, this brilliant wine will cellar well for years to come. Drink 2020-2040

93 PTS

Vinous, Stephen Tanzer - December 2019

Bright medium ruby. Vibrant scents of blueberry, boysenberry, violet, licorice and oak spices. Wonderfully plush, even creamy by the standards of this producer, yet still quite primary thanks to lively acidity and inner-mouth violet lift. At once pretty and firmly structured, this age worthy beauty finishes with very fine-grained, palate-dusting tannins and slowly building fruit. This vineyard did particularly well in 2016, noted owner Marty Clubb, who harvested it late. While this wine's acidity is normally all natural, in '16 the Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon components got a quarter-gram per liter acidification.

91+ PTS

Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller - May 2020

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 11% Malbec and 4% Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard opens to aromas of dark red fruit and dusty black fruit, balanced by soft red and purple flowers with sweet spice nuances floating on top of the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is clean and correct, with a food-friendly expression and tannins gripping the gumline. The wine lingers with a mixed berry compote and brown baking spice-flavored finish. 1,320 cases produced. It's a beautiful wine.

91 PTS

The World of Fine Wine, Jamie Goode - September 2019

Sweet blackcurrant fruit and cherry nose, with a hint of licorice and herbs. The palate is fresh, with good concentration and some grippy tannins, as well as compact, sweet berry fruits. A ripe, quite seductive wine, but showing good complexity and structure, too.

COMPETITIONS

Six Nations Wine Challenge, 2019	<i>Double Gold</i>
Sunset International Wine Competition, 2019	<i>Double Gold</i>
Wine Press Northwest Platinum Judging, 2019	<i>Double Gold</i>
San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, 2020	<i>Gold</i>