

2016 Estate Merlot Walla Walla Valley

95 points, James Suckling, www.jamessuckling.com,
February 2019

A stunning merlot that proves what this grape is capable of in Washington State! Ravishing blueberry nose with delicate, minty freshness, then a medium-to full-bodied palate, on which velvety tannins are married to bright acidity and minerality that drives the long, pure finish. Drink or hold. – James Suckling

93 points – Jeb Dunnuck, www.JebDunnuck.com
April 2019

“... the 2016 Merlot Walla Walla Valley is all estate fruit and made from 76% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, brought up in 40% new oak. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by notes of cassis, leafy herbs, damp earth, and graphite. Balanced, medium to full-bodied, seamless, and beautifully put together, it's a terrific, high-class Merlot to drink over the coming 7-8 years as well.” – Jeb Dunnuck

19/20 points - Rand Sealey's Review of Washington Wines,
www.reviewofwashingtonwines.com
May 2019

“Composed of 76% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and half from the Ferguson Vineyard and half from Seven Hills, this exhibits a deep ruby color and attractive aromas of raspberry, black cherry, plum, crushed roses, tobacco leaf, cedar, anise and clove. The flavors are medium bodied but deep and penetrating, with notes of licorice, cocoa, espresso and silt and basalt minerals. On the back, the wine turns chewy textured yet supple, with sensations of pressed fruits, roasted pecans and graphite, followed by a long satisfying ripe tannin finish.” – Rand Sealey

90+ points – Vinous, www.vinous.com,
December 2019

“Bright, dark red with ruby highlights. Alluring aromas of black raspberry, currant, plum, bitter chocolate, tobacco leaf and licorice. Densely packed, fresh and delineated, this penetrating, juicy Merlot displays intense blue- and blackberry and licorice flavors, slightly edgy acidity and a firm tannic spine. Structured, age worthy Washington Merlot. Marty Clubb noted that when this wine was made entirely from Seven Hills, he used some Cabernets to add backbone, but he has cut back sharply on the Cabernet as Ferguson yields very structured Merlot. (40% new oak; a 50/50 blend of Seven Hills and Ferguson fruit)” – Stephen Tanzer

90 points – Wine & Spirits, www.wineandspirits.com
June 2019

“Leading with textbook Walla Walla tobacco-tin scents, this wine has a bright core of cherry and plum flavor – a hallmark of Seven Hills vineyard, where half of this fruit was sourced; the other half came from Ferguson, which may account for the wine's firm tannins. It has the stuffing to lay down; or decant it now for steak.”
– Patrick J. Comiskey

90 points – The Cork Report, www.thecorkreport.us
October 2019

“The deeply saturated nose wafts dark cherry sauce, black plum, cassis, beef jerky, graphite minerality and smokey black pepper. It's not quite full-bodied, featuring round and broad tannins that are well integrated and nicely balanced with modest acid. The structure is classic high quality merlot. Flavors are as much savory as sweet due to strong doses of saline and dried tarragon. On the fruit side there's cherry pit, strawberry, Acai, red plum and dried goji berry. Structurally this wine is ready to go, I say drink over the next five years.” – Aaron Menenberg

Medals & Competitions

Silver – Sunset International Wine Competition, 2019

Silver – Beverage Tasting Institute Wine Competition, 2019