

2016 Ferguson

Estate Ferguson Vineyard · Walla Walla Valley

96 points, #66 "Top 100 wines of the USA 2019"

James Suckling, www.jamessuckling.com,
February 2019/December 2019

I love the fragrant black-raspberry and violet notes that pull you into this concentrated yet elegant red. Great tannin structure and freshness that could wake the dead. The finish is super long, focused and minerally. A blend of 62 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 26 per cent merlot, six per cent cabernet franc and six per cent malbec. — James Suckling

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

"Incorporating the most Cabernet Sauvignon of the three top tier releases, the 2016 Estate Ferguson Ferguson Vineyard is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Malbec, all aged in 50% new barrels. It's a full-bodied, powerful wine that has a distinct salinity and a marine-like note in its red and black fruits, spice, crushed rocks, and cedar aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, concentrated, and structured, it nevertheless has the charming, balanced, layered style of the vintage front and center. It too has good acidity and is going to benefit from 3-4 years of bottle age." — Jeb Dunnuck

95 points – Vinous, www.vinous.com, December 2019

"Bright, saturated ruby-red. Aromas of blackberry, dark chocolate, musky tobacco and pungent minerality are lifted by a floral note, plus a hint of brown spices that may come from some iron in the soil (basalt decays into clay, notes Clubb, and here the clay is red and rich in iron). Boasts lovely inner-mouth sweetness and silkiness of texture, with its purple and black fruit flavors lifted by spices and showing a superb light touch. Perhaps most impressive on the wonderfully spreading back end, where the suave tannins are totally buffered by the wine's mid-palate material (Clubb does a gentler extraction for this fruit, as the berries are tiny and thick-skinned, and typically come in with the highest natural acidity of any of the winery's sites in Walla Walla Valley.) Incidentally, this wine was mostly made from a 2008 planting, with a crop level of barely 2.5 tons per acre. But Clubb planted another 12 acres in Ferguson in 2016 and another 2 last fall, including some Rhône varieties. This is just the sixth release for this wine, and the best to date. (7.2 acidity!)" — Stephen Tanzer

94 points, Year's Best US Cabernets & Blends – Wine & Spirits, www.wineandspirits.com, June 2019

"A blend of cabernet, merlot, Malbec and cabernet franc, this feels as firm and vertical as an edifice – or the basalt bedrock upon which Ferguson Vineyard is planted, in the hilltop Seven project. It starts out shy and reserved, combining modest vanilla-oak scents with warm plums and a distant leafiness. As it takes on air, the flavors start to crowd the glass, compressed and powerful. This is years from its peak, built to last two decades or more." — Patrick J. Comiskey

94 points, Washington Wine Blog, www.washingtonwineblog.com, April 2019

"This outstanding new release is a silky blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon with 26% merlot and the remainder Cabernet Franc and Malbec. On the nose this takes on dark fruits with sagebrush and red bell pepper with coffee ground undertones. Black fruits and chocolate. With roasted dates line the distinguished palate. Showing tremendous freshness and energy, this wine needs another year or two in the cellar to be fully expressive. Drink 2020-2035" — O. Bargreen

91 points, Cellar Selection, Wine Enthusiast, www.winemag.com, July 2019

"Cabernet Sauvignon (62%) and Merlot (26%) make up the majority of this wine, with the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Malbec. The aromas of bittersweet chocolate, herb, dusty earth, graphite, vanilla and cherry show delineation and appeal on the nose. The palate brings a mouthful of restrained fruit flavors, with firm, puckering tannins backing them up. A mouth-watering finish displays a mix of red and black fruit. Best after 2023, with a long life beyond that." — Sean Sullivan

Medals & Competitions

Gold – Six Nations Wine Challenge, 2019

Gold – Sunset International Wine Competition, 2019