

L'ECOLE

No 41

TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

2017 Ferguson, Estate Ferguson Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

97 PTS, #64 TOP 100 WINES OF UNITED STATES 2020

JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling - May 2020

What a fantastic wine with currant, blackberry and pumice character. It also has a hot-stone undertone. It's full-bodied with chewy yet broad tannins that flow through the wine. Complex and juicy. Very minerally with blood-orange character. A blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot, 7% cabernet franc and 5% malbec. This needs three to four years of bottle age. Better after 2023.

95 PTS

JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck - April 2020

I loved the 2017 Ferguson Estate Ferguson Vineyard. This beauty is complex and nuanced, with stunning notes of crème de cassis, unsmoked tobacco, graphite, and crushed rocks. Rich, full-bodied, and concentrated, with good acidity and loads of structure, it's a balanced, beautiful wine that needs 4-5 years of bottle age and will evolve for over two decades. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Malbec, aged 22 months in 50% new oak.

94 PTS

OwenBargreen.com, Owen Bargreen - April 2020

One of the unique sites in the Walla Walla Valley, the 'Ferguson Vineyard' is a high elevation site that is set atop a ridge of ancient lava flows. Needing a two hour decant to fully be aroused, the wine awakens with lavender and rich black fruits that meld with dark chocolate shavings and graphite on this expressive bouquet. The palate has great freshness and viscosity, with a silky texture. While obviously a big wine, the elegance provides a seamless factor that is hard to describe. Moderately tannic at this juncture, this finishes very long with silty earth, dark fruits and minerals. Sensational even this young, try to give this beautiful wine at least two more years before enjoying. Drink 2022-2040.

92 PTS, YEAR'S BEST US CABERNET & BLENDS

Wine & Spirits, Patrick J. Comiskey - June 2020

This is a huge wine, a basalt-black pot of fruit limned with spectacular flourishes of violet, pine and evergreen, so vivid it's as if essential oils have been spritzed into it. The tannins are fine but have a cumulative power, delivering the flavors with precision. For flank steak.

92 PTS, CELLAR SELECTION

Wine Enthusiast, Sean Sullivan - April 2020

Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Merlot (28%) comprise the majority of this wine, with Cabernet Franc (7%) and Malbec rounding it out. Aromas of dried leaf, savory herb, dark chocolate, cassis and dried thyme draw you into the glass. The palate shows a sense of polish to the classically styled cranberry and cherry flavors. Lively acidity and brawny, slightly green tannins back it all up. Oak spices linger on the finish. It has the acidity and tannin stuffing to go the distance and then some. Best after 2025 with a long life beyond that.

91+ PTS

Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller - October 2020

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec, the 2017 Ferguson Vineyard opens with an expressive nose with an aromatic lift. Wafting from the glass, the wine showcases a frame of delineated red and black fruits with a soft undertone of minerality that supports notions of succulent cherry, plum, spiced blackberry and elegant oak tones. Full-bodied, the wine is rich and focused, showing layers across the mid-palate with a balanced structure and lifted tannic edge. A sensation of mineral tension creeps along with flavors of dark chocolate-covered cherries, mocha, cinnamon, vanilla and plum preserves on the long-lingering finish. Nicely done. Drink date: 2020-2032.

91 PTS

Wine Spectator, Tim Fish - August 2020

Precise and tightly structured, with multilayered currant, crushed stone and espresso accents that build tension toward medium-grained tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Best from 2021 through 2030.

OTHER AWARDS

Seattle Times Top 20 Northwest Wines of 2020

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