

L'Ecole

Nº 41

2017 Syrah, Estate Seven Hills Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Washington State's climate and soil is ideally suited to maximize the varietal characteristics of Syrah. Crafted from some of the earliest Walla Walla Valley Syrah plantings, this wine manifests old world attributes of earth and spice, in combination with the new world profile of bold, expressive fruit.

SEVEN HILLS VINEYARD

L'Ecole Nº 41 is a partner in the 190 acre acclaimed Seven Hills Vineyard, which is planted in wind-blown loess of geologically young and mineral-rich soils. Originally planted in 1981, this Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe vineyard has been recognized as one of the Ten Great Vineyards of the World by *Wine & Spirits Magazine*.

VINTAGE

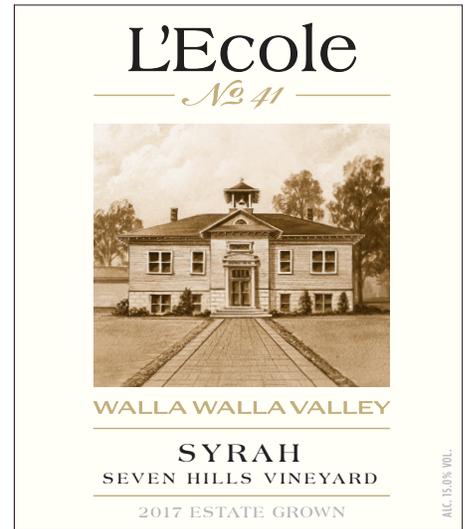
- The 2017 vintage was moderate in heat units and produced spectacular quality and balance normally associated with such seasonal conditions.
- A cool, wet spring delayed bud break until early April allowing the vines to fully recover from a hard prior winter. Bloom occurred in early June in line with the long-term average.
- July and early August were slightly warmer than normal suppressing berry growth and yields.
- Late September was cooler than normal and this slow fruit maturation, pushing most of grape harvest into October.
- Our beautiful Indian summer brought in plentiful sunshine in October. Warm days, and cool night temperatures produced an ideal balance of flavor development, acid retention, and mineral notes in the majority of wines. A near-perfect vintage in the door.

WINEMAKING

- Over 35 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 block was hand harvested. About 20% of the fruit was fermented whole cluster on stems while the remainder was gently crushed into 1.5 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 small oak barrels, 40% new, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

This beautifully balanced Estate Syrah marries savory aromas of olive tapenade and black pepper with floral notes of violet. The expansive palate shows intense flavors of blackberry, coffee, bitter chocolate, and a touch of spice paired with a fine tannin structure that gives way to a concentrated, rich finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 16 - 19, 2017
Average tons/acre	3.5
Average Brix	25.4°
Average pH	3.45
Average Acidity	5.7 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	100% Syrah
pH	3.83
Total Acidity	6.2 g/L
Alcohol	15.0%
Bottling Date	February 15, 2019
Release Date	APRIL 2020
Case Production	1,060