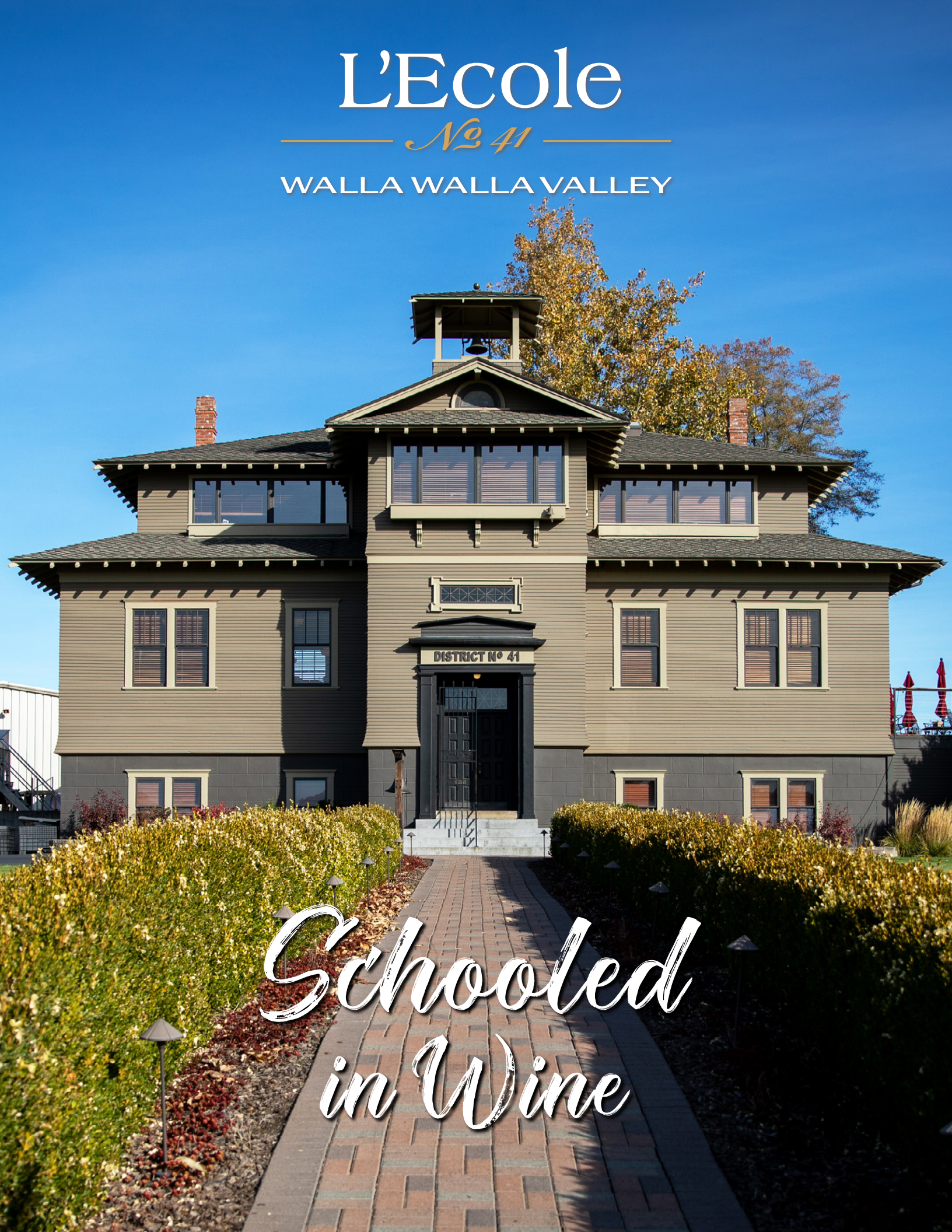
L'Ecole

№41

WALLA WALLA VALLEY



Schooled in Wine

UNIT 1

Our People

Marty Clubb is the Managing Winemaker and Co-Owner of L'Ecole Nº 41 with his wife, Megan, and children, Riley and Rebecca. This family-owned winery was founded by Megan's parents, Jean and Baker Ferguson in 1983 making it the 3rd winery in the Walla Walla Valley.

In 1989, Marty and Megan took a leap of faith and moved to Walla Walla from San Francisco, where Marty assumed responsibilities as manager and winemaker of L'Ecole. Since that time, he has led L'Ecole to become one of the most respected wineries in America.

Marty's ongoing dedication and commitment to the wine industry is evident, serving more than 30 years in leadership roles, including: Director of the Washington Wine Commission, President and Director of the Washington Wine Institute, and Chair of WineAmerica. Marty was instrumental in the founding of the Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance and development of the Walla Walla Community College Center for Enology and Viticulture.

PRINCIPALS

Second generation owners Marty and Megan Clubb

FOUNDERS

Jean & Baker Ferguson established the winery as a retirement project in 1983

GET SCHOOLED WITH MARTY CLUBB!

Click the photo to watch an interactive video about L'Ecole

Scholastic History

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

WASHINGTON STATE is one of today's most exciting viticulture regions and L'Ecole is one of its leading benchmark wineries. More than three decades of winemaking experience, ongoing investments in our Walla Walla Estate Ferguson and Seven Hills Vineyards, and partnerships with some of Washington's oldest vineyard sites are central to our well-known reputation for excellence across our entire portfolio.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE is located in historic Frenchtown, a small community just west of Walla Walla, Washington. The image of the Schoolhouse is the cornerstone of the L'Ecole brand and has been the centerpiece of our wine labels since the winery's inception in 1983. The original Frenchtown School was a log cabin built in 1870 along the banks of the Walla Walla River. It was rebuilt in 1915 at our present location and renamed the Lowden School.

FRENCH ROOTS Frenchtown derived its name from the many French Canadians who settled in the Walla Walla Valley during the early 1800s. Legend has it these men of French descent raised grapes and produced wine. By the 1860s, nurseries, vineyards, and winemaking had become a part of the valley's growing economy. The winery name, L'Ecole Nº 41 – French for "the school" located in school district 41 – was chosen to salute these pioneer viticulture efforts.

OUR LABEL

The image on our current label is a painting of the Schoolhouse based on a photograph taken in 1915, when it was newly built. The label captures the heart and soul of the winery's heritage and underscores the winery's historical roots in the Walla Walla Valley.

EXTRA CREDIT

Click Here to learn more about our label story.

L'ECOLE Nº 41 TIMELINE

L'Ecole Nº 41 is a third generation, family-owned artisan winery located in the historic Frenchtown School depicted on our label.

1983 FOUNDED

Third winery established in the Walla Walla Valley by Megan's parents, Jean & Baker Ferguson as a retirement project.

1989 SECOND GENERATION

Marty and Megan took a leap of faith and moved to Walla Walla permanently, where Marty assumed responsibilities as manager and winemaker of L'Ecole.

Brand Summary

QUICK FACTS

Winery Name:

- L'Ecole is French for "The School"
- Nº 41 represents school district 41

Founders:

- Jean and Baker Ferguson (Megan's parents)
- Est. 1983

Owners:

- Marty & Megan Clubb and Family (1989-present)

Winemakers:

- Marty Clubb, Managing Winemaker & Viticulturist
- Marcus Rafanelli, Winemaker

Appellations:

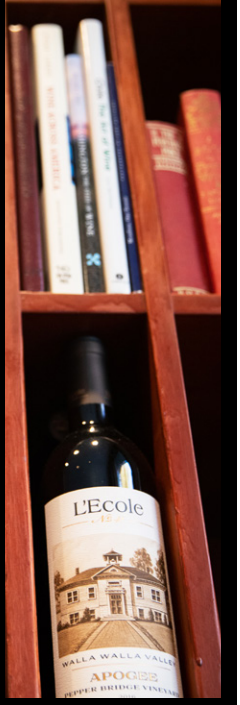
- Walla Walla Valley
- Columbia Valley
- Yakima Valley
- Horse Heaven Hills

Estate Vineyards:

- **Ferguson Vineyard**, Walla Walla Valley, 30 planted acres
- **Seven Hills Vineyard**, Walla Walla Valley, 170 planted acre partnership

Wine Portfolios:

- Heritage Wines from Select Vineyards (Columbia Valley, Yakima Valley, Horse Heaven Hills)
- Estate and Walla Walla Valley Wines



Wine Study

SEMILLON
COLUMBIA VALLEY

HISTORY Semillon was once one of the most widely planted white varietals in the world. It is native to the Bordeaux region in southwest France where it is traditionally blended with Sauvignon Blanc to produce the fine dry whites of Pessac-Leognan in the Graves subregion.

CLIFF NOTES L'Ecole has been making its dry, full-bodied Semillon since its first vintage in 1983. The Semillon provides the backbone while the addition of Sauvignon Blanc gives the wine aromatic lift and lively acidity. It is barrel fermented for texture and richness, then finished in stainless steel to retain its fresh aromatics and crisp, natural acidity.

PLACE Few Semillons show their richness and complexity as those produced in Washington State. Perfectly suited to the climate, Semillon excels in the dry, warm days and cool, acid-preserving nights. Today, only 95 acres of Semillon are planted in Washington State. Notable vineyards include Estate Seven Hills, Klipsun and Stillwater Creek.

DID YOU KNOW... Today, L'Ecole Nº 41 is recognized internationally as one of the top producers of this wonderful and unique varietal.

MERLOT
COLUMBIA VALLEY

HISTORY Merlot captured center stage as Washington's star varietal in 1976. With its dark cherry flavors and aroma, Washington Merlot tends to be more structured with a higher presence of tannins than its Bordeaux cousins, and more acidity than its rivals in California. One of the first two wines produced by L'Ecole in 1983, the winery is now one of Washington's benchmark producers of Merlot.

CLIFF NOTES A combination of estate-grown fruit, and fruit sourced from established vineyards throughout the Columbia Valley combine to create this well-balanced wine that is unmistakably Washington State. A perfect combination of Old World structure and acidity with New World fruit and exuberance.

PLACE Eastern Washington's long, warm summer days, lack of rainfall and geologically young, mineral-rich soils provide the perfect conditions for growing world-class Merlot. Notable vineyards include Estate Seven Hills, Candy Mountain, and Bacchus & Dionysus.

DID YOU KNOW... L'Ecole's first vintage of Merlot (1983) won the only Gold Medal issued by the 1986 Pacific Northwest Enological Society. Two of the judges were renowned winemakers, Angelo Gaja and Warren Winiarski!

Vineyard Spotlight

SAGEMOOR VINEYARDS

Our Heritage Collection of wines come from some of the most proven vineyards throughout the Columbia Valley. Planted in 1972, Sagemoor Vineyards, notably Bacchus and Dionysus Vineyards, has some of the oldest plantings of vitis vinifera in Washington state. The location, age of the vines and farming practices provide the consistency, quality and character that have helped define our brand for more than 30 years. We've been working with Sagemoor since our very first vintage in 1983.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Click Here to learn more about Sagemoor Vineyards