

L'Ecole

No. 41

TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

2017 Merlot Columbia Valley

18.5/20 (92.5) PTS

Rand Sealey's Review of Washington Wines - April 2020

This delivers a lot for its modest price. Composed of 81% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot, it shows a deep ruby color and attractive aromas of raspberry, black cherries, plums, black currants, crushed roses, tobacco leaf, cedar, rosemary, clove and incense. The flavors are vigorous and true to variety, with notes of licorice root, cocoa, French roast and minerals. On the back, the wine firms up a bit with sensations of macerated berries, roasted nuts, dried cherries, mocha and pencil shavings, followed by a savory, satisfying ripe tannin finish.

92 PTS, EDITORS' CHOICE

Wine Enthusiast, Sean Sullivan - April 2020

The baking spice, dark raspberry and anise aromas provide appeal. Broad-feeling, textured flavors follow, with cranberry-tart acidity and brawny, firm tannins backing it up. It's an extremely impressive offering of this variety, showing its more serious side—Washington Merlot at its best. It will shine at the dinner table and will have a long life in front of it, seemingly near immortal.

91 PTS

OwenBargreen.com, Owen Bargreen - October 2020

The 2017 'Columbia Valley' Merlot is a resounding success by L'Ecole No. 41. Once on the nose this takes on a beautiful bouquet of smoke with chocolate covered cherries and shades of pipe tobacco. The palate is soft and chewy with a good sense of weight, structure and tension. Layers of kirsch, sagebrush, cherry tomato, and menthol collide with smoky minerals on the palate. Give this an hour in the decanter before savoring. Drink 2020-2028.

88 PTS

JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck - April 2020

The value-priced 2017 Merlot Columbia Valley is a charmer, offering loads of red and black fruits as well as spicy, toasty, herbal nuances. Ripe, medium-bodied, and beautifully textured, it's a no-brainer purchase year in and year out. Drink this classy Merlot over the coming 5-7 years.

88 PTS

Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller - October 2020

Blended with 14% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% a Petit Verdot, the 2017 Columbia Valley Merlot is dark ruby colored at the core with a soft purple rim. Dense and chewy aromas of plum preserves and blackberry jus flutter out of the glass with a note of fresh rain on the sidewalk. Medium-bodied, the wine is tannic and feels like it's been pushed too far and has lost some of its sincerity before ending with a gripping tannic finish and elevated alcohol expression. Drink date: 2020-2023.

COMPETITIONS

Savor NW Wine Awards, 2020

Silver

Rodeo Uncorked, 2021

Silver