

# L'ECOLE

— *No 41* —

## TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

### 2017 Merlot Estate Walla Walla Valley

#### 94 PTS

*JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling* - June 2020

This is really delicious and hard not to drink now. It shows chocolate, hazelnut and blackberry character. It's medium-to full-bodied. I like the round, silky tannins and the fresh, focused finish. Rust undertone at the finish. Drink now or hold.

#### 93 PTS

*OwenBargreen.com, Owen Bargreen* - October 2020

The 2017 'Walla Walla Valley' Merlot is sourced in equal parts from the Seven Hills Vineyard and Ferguson Vineyard. Needing an hour in the decanter to be fully aroused, once awoken you experience dark currants and sandalwood aromatics, woven together with shades of milk chocolate and roasted figs. The palate is fresh and vibrant with intense tannins that collide with the core of dark fruits, espresso bean and violets on the palate. With incredible tension and solid viscosity, this sturdy Merlot will enjoy a long life in the cellar. Drink 2022-2035.

#### 91 PTS, EDITORS' CHOICE

*Wine Enthusiast, Sean Sullivan* - August 2020

Ferguson fruit makes up half of this wine, with the other coming from Seven Hills. The aromas offer notes of black tea, dark raspberry, wet basalt, cedar and barrel spice. The palate brings plentiful fruit flavors, generous barrel accents and ample tannin and lively acidity structure. There's a whole lot to like. It will have a long life ahead of it.

#### 90 PTS

*JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck* - April 2020

Slightly more expensive, the 2017 Merlot Walla Walla Valley (79% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon) comes from the estate and reveals a similar purple hue as well as plump, round, opulent notes of black cherries, blackberries, dried tobacco, chocolate, and loamy soil. Ripe, rounded, beautifully textured, and balanced, it has the class to keep for a decade or more if you're so inclined.

#### 90 PTS

*Wine & Spirits, Patrick Comiskey* - June 2020

This stylish merlot starts off herbal and dark fruited, with scents of pine and plum. With air, the Walla Walla savor comes through, grippy and succulent, a touch leathery, with firm tannins for steak.

#### 89+ PTS

*Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller* - October 2020

Dark-berried and expressive, the 2017 Merlot Walla Walla Valley opens with aromas of plum reduction and blackberry jus plus elements of dark cherry skin, touches of sage, wet river rocks and damson flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is full and vibrant with a lifting tannic frame, balanced structure and an elegant blackberry essence as the wine concludes with a soft tannic grip and flavors of bitter dark chocolate. Drink date: 2020-2026.