

L'Ecole

No 41

TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

2018 Ferguson, Estate Ferguson Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

95 PTS

JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling - July 2021

Notes of blackberries, blueberries and spices on the nose. It's full-bodied with chewy tannins. Structured, with a lot of wood and a juicy character on the center-palate. Mineral and racy. Flavorful finish. A blend of 55% cabernet sauvignon, 24% merlot, 11% cabernet franc, 5% malbec and 5% petit verdot. Drink in 2024.

95 PTS

OwenBargreen.com, Owen Bargreen - March 2021

The 2018 L'Ecole No 41 'Ferguson Vineyard' Red Wine is a compelling blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon with 24% Merlot and smaller parts Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot sourced from this high elevation site in the Walla Walla Valley. Once on the nose this takes on layers of creme de cassis and creosote tones that mingle with exotic spices on this fantastic bouquet. The palate is soft and refined, with good richness and a wonderful veil of tension and salinity. Intense dark fruits mingle with minerals, cigar ash and Turkish coffee tones on the palate, with firm tannins holding everything well in place. Exceedingly good even in its youth, try to hold off enjoying this beautiful wine for at least another two years. Drink 2024-2040.

95 PTS

Decanter, Owen Bargreen - August 2021

A compelling blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon with 24% Merlot and smaller parts Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot sourced from this high elevation site in the Walla Walla Valley. Once on the nose this takes on layers of crème de cassis and charcoal tones that mingle with exotic spices on this fantastic bouquet. This is refined stuff the shows great tension and salinity. Intense dark fruits mingle with minerals, cigar ash and Turkish coffee tones on the palate, with firm tannins holding everything well in place. Drinking Window 2024 - 2040

94+ PTS

JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck - May 2021

The 2018 Ferguson Estate Ferguson Vineyard comes from an estate vineyard in Walla Walla and is based on 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Malbec and Petit Verdot. Lots of earthy currants and mulberry fruits, new leather, tobacco, and cedary herb notes define the nose, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a backward, unevolved profile, ripe tannins, and outstanding length on the finish. It opens up gradually with time in the glass and has a more savory, herbal, floral, complex, incredibly compelling character. It needs to be forgotten for 3-4 years and it should keep for 15-20 years nicely.

94 PTS, CELLAR SELECTION

Wine Enthusiast, Sean Sullivan - April 2021

Cabernet Sauvignon comprises 55% of this wine, with the balance Merlot (24%), Cabernet Franc (11%), and then equal parts Malbec and Petit Verdot. It's locked up tightly at present, with notes of cherry, black tea, raspberry and spice. The fruit flavors show sophistication. It's packed tightly with fruit, acid, and tannin. It will have a very long life ahead of it. Don't go near it until at least 2030. It will have an easy decade-plus of great drinking beyond that. Quality, intensity, balance, structure, and seemingly endless aging potential.

93+ PTS

Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller - July 2021

Composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2018 Ferguson Vineyard starts with a gorgeous nose of elegant oak, fresh and ripe fruit tones and resinous purple flowers. Full-bodied, the blend displays immaculate balance, possessing both power and precision as flavors of spiced cherry compote, black plum skin and redcurrant sway with seductive tones of vanilla, cinnamon and nuances of cardamom madeleines. The wonderfully structured mid-palate displays firm tannins that will loosen in time, before concluding with a long-lingering and ever-evolving finish. The wine rested 22 months in French oak, 50% new. It's superb, and the best thing to do is to put it in the cellar and forget about it for a few years until it's found its stride. Bravo, I think I might finish the glass.