

L'Ecole

No. 41

2018 Cabernet Franc / Merlot Estate Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Cabernet Franc and Merlot shine at our Estate Ferguson and Seven Hills vineyards. This is our third ever 50/50 blend of these two noble varietals made in a classic Right Bank Bordeaux style.

ESTATE VINEYARD

Ferguson Vineyard 50% - Fractured basalt

Seven Hills Vineyard 50% - Wind-blown loess

These prestigious vineyards are Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

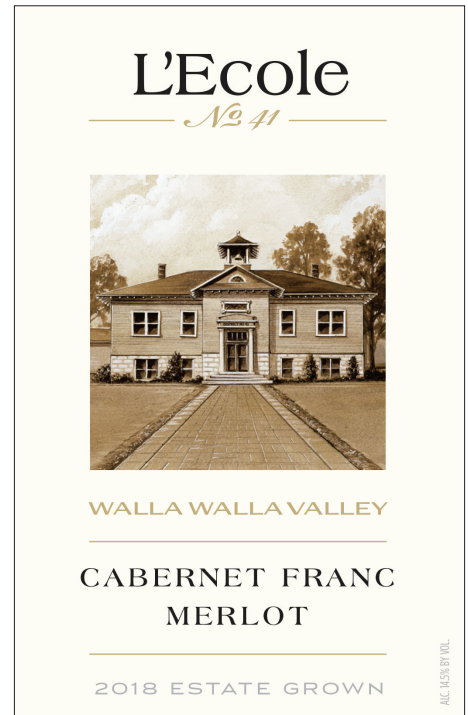
- Perfectly dry harvest weather extended hang-time resulting in rich color and vibrant fruit flavors, another great vintage for Washington State.
- A late bud-break in mid-April was followed by a warm May with rapid canopy growth. A quick, even bloom set a uniform crop. A cool June contributed to healthy berry growth.
- July and early August were warm, with occasional heat spikes. Canopies were managed to avoid sunburn and irrigation was micromanaged. Intense cluster thinning was required to control yields.
- Veraison tracked 2017 in Walla Walla and was slightly ahead in other regions of the state. A brief rainfall shifted early September into cooler weather leading to two months of near-perfect weather conditions for final fruit maturity.
- Higher sugars were balanced against higher acid levels and wonderfully intense color and tannin extraction, big fruit flavors, and overall balanced structure. Another strong Washington vintage.

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 lot was hand-harvested ripe and 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 racked to French oak barrels, with 30% new, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

This Right Bank style estate blend shows intriguing aromas of cranberry, cherries, and plum set against savory notes of anise, herbes de Provence, and cedar. Hints of crushed rose petals and espresso complete the wine. Delicious and supple, the wine's refined structure offers serious length, supported by herb-dusted tannins.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 12 - 26, 2018
Average tons/acre	3.9
Average Brix	25.7°
Average pH	3.35
Average Acidity	6.1g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	50% CABERNET FRANC, 50% MERLOT
pH	3.72
Total Acidity	6.3 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 20, 2020
Release Date	APRIL 2021
Case Production	298