

# L'Ecole

No. 41

## TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

### 2018 Merlot Estate Walla Walla Valley

#### 94 PTS

*JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling* - June 2021

Notes of raspberry, plum and nutmeg. It's medium-bodied with plush tannins. Chalky texture on the palate with juicy character. Velvety and balanced with a long, flavorful finish. Firmness at the end. Drink from 2022.

#### 93 PTS

*OwenBargreen.com, Owen Bargreen* - March 2021

The 2018 'Walla Walla Valley' Merlot is an awesome wine by L'Ecole. Ripe black plum and chocolate covered dark kirsch aromas with baking spices all meld in the glass. The palate is refined and elegant with a terrific mouthfeel and outstanding length. Rich dark fruits collide with minerals, smoke and chocolate cake notes on the palate. Outstanding in its youth, this has a long way to go. Drink 2021-2035.

#### 92 PTS

*Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller* - July 2021

Made with the addition of 12% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 Merlot Walla Walla Valley begins with enticing aromas of baking spices, vanilla, sweet cardamom and nutmeg before displaying juicy plum tones with elements of dark cherry and dried sage. Medium to full-bodied, the Merlot offers a delicious juicy frame of fruit that exudes oak spices before fine-grained tannins lift the mid-palate. The wine concludes with a delightfully lingering finish that drinks like a bottle of wine almost three times its price. The wine fermented in small French barrels, 35% new, before resting 18 months in oak. Bravo! This is a steal at this price.

#### 92 PTS

*JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck* - May 2021

Including 12% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 Merlot Walla Walla Valley gives up a delicious, medium to full-bodied, mouth-filling style as well as loads of pure black cherry and currant fruits, ripe, velvety tannins, no hard edges, and subtle tobacco, cedarwood, and chocolatey aromas and flavors. As with all the wines from L'Ecole No. 41, it has a classic, balanced, Old World vibe while still bringing beautiful fruit. Drink it over the coming 10-12 years or more.

#### 90 PTS

*Wine Enthusiast, Sean Sullivan* - May 2021

Equal parts Seven Hills and Ferguson Vineyard fruit, this wine is settling into the bottle. Still, there is immediate appeal to the aromas of raspberry, flower, cedar and spice. The palate paints around the edges initially, with the middle filling in over time. It's almost tangy out of the gate, settling with time. The tannins give it a grainy structure. The pieces are all there but need time to come together. Best after 2024.

#### 90 PTS

*Wine Spectator, Tim Fish* - October 2021

Focused and snappy with well-build currant, sassafras and licorice flavors that finish with refined tannins. Drink now through 2027.