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.