

L'Ecole

Nº 41

2018 Merlot Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole Nº 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of excellent Merlot and this wine delivers with great structure, color, and balanced acidity. Our Heritage Collection Merlot benefits from 60% estate-grown fruit.

VINEYARDS

Estate Seven Hills, Estate Ferguson, Pepper Bridge - Walla Walla Valley AVA
Candy Mountain - Candy Mountain AVA
Dionysus - White Bluffs AVA (Pending)
Klipsun - Red Mountain AVA

VINTAGE

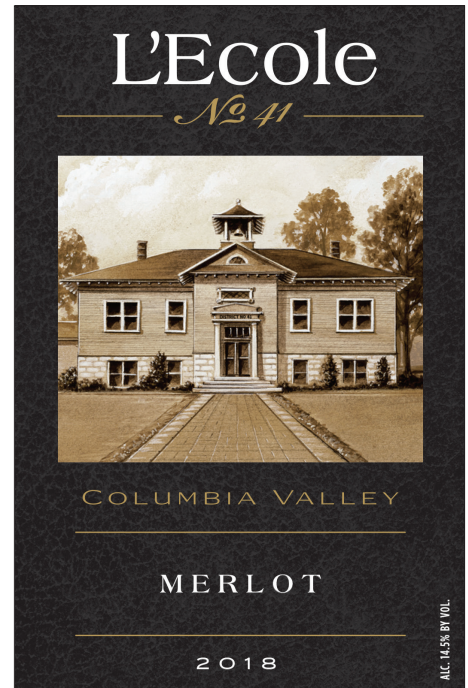
- Perfectly dry harvest weather extended hang-time resulting in rich color and vibrant fruit flavors, another great vintage for Washington State.
- A late bud-break in mid-April was followed by a warm May with rapid canopy growth. A quick, even bloom set a uniform crop. A cool June contributed to healthy 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 and 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 cleanly racked to small oak barrels, 30% new, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

Exhibiting complex layers of raspberry, plum, and black cherry, accented by crushed roses, pencil shavings, and smoky cedar nuances, this full-bodied, vigorous Merlot bursts with flavors of macerated berries, coffee, and kirsch. Charming and ripe, it firms up to finish with a satisfying longevity.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 7 - OCTOBER 12, 2018
Average Brix	26.0°
Average pH	3.45
Average Acidity	5.4 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	80% MERLOT, 14% CABERNET FRANC, 4% MALBEC, 2% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.68
Total Acidity	6.0 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 18-19, 2020
Release Date	APRIL 2021
Case Production	5,300