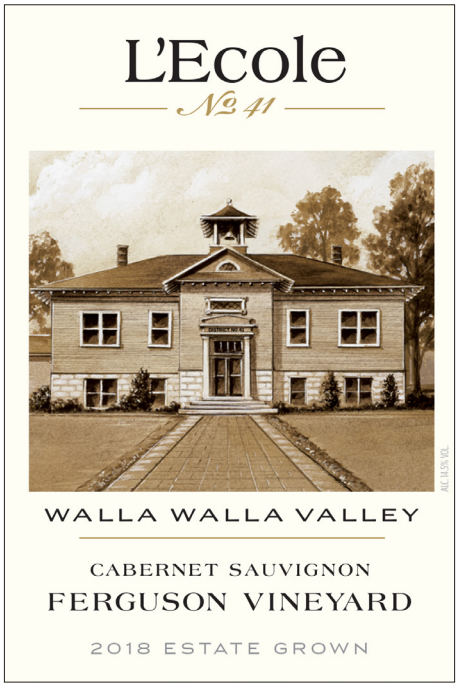
L'Ecole
№ 41

2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Estate Ferguson Vineyard
Walla Walla Valley



WINEMAKER COMMENT

This wine is a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from our prestigious Ferguson Estate Vineyard, reflecting the unique terroir expression of its microclimate and geological site. Its powerful structure, complexity and intensity make it a unique and cellar-worthy wine.

FERGUSON VINEYARD

Ferguson Vineyard is a stunning, high elevation site overlooking a panoramic view of the Walla Walla Valley. With 30 planted acres, vines are rooted in fractured basalt rock from 15-million-year-old ancient lava flows overlaid with a thin layer of wind-blown loess. The vineyard is Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

- Perfect 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 and healthy 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.
- Each block was hand harvested ripe at 2.5 tons per acre and gently crushed into 1 ½ ton open-topped stainless steel fermenters.
- Gentle handling of the fruit through hand punch downs and gravity assisted movements were utilized throughout the entire winemaking process.
- A two week maceration on the skins allowed us to build structure and backbone.
- The wine was cleanly racked to 100% small French oak barrels, 40% new, with four rackings over 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

This small production Cabernet displays roasted cherries and crushed rose petals on the nose, and presents a commanding profile in the mouth, structured, dark, and inviting. Graphite minerality is fleshed out by a plush and flavorful palate. Bramble berries are offset by savory tobacco and cedar. The finish is power and persistence.

HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	OCTOBER 5, 2018
Average tons/acre	3.6
Average Brix	26.2°
Average pH	3.05
Average Acidity	8.0 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
pH	3.5
Total Acidity	6.6 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JULY 13, 2020
Release Date	OCTOBER 2021
Case Production	385

PO BOX 111 ▪ LOWDEN, WASHINGTON 99360 ▪ (509) 525.0940

LECOLE.COM