

L'Ecole

No 41

TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

2018 Apogee, Pepper Bridge Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

95 PTS

JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck - May 2021

The 2018 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon yet includes 27% Merlot, 14% Malbec and 3% Cabernet Franc, all brought up in 50% new French oak. It has a gorgeous, Bordeaux-like nose of red and black currants, lead pencil, leafy tobacco, and graphite. This carries to a medium to full-bodied red with terrific overall balance, remarkable purity of fruit, and both tannins and acidity. It can be enjoyed today yet will benefit 2-3 years of bottle age and I suspect have 20 years of prime drinking. It's a beautiful wine.

95 PTS

JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling - July 2021

An attractive nose of wild blackberry, plum, sweet tobacco and nutmeg. Full-bodied with firm tannins. Structured with vivid acidity on the palate. Chocolate and black fruit on the mid-palate, followed through a long, flavorful finish. A blend of 56% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, 14% malbec and 3% cabernet franc. Drink in 2024.

94 PTS

Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller - July 2021

The 2018 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard is a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 14% Malbec and 3% Cabernet Franc. Elegant oak tones flow from the glass with nuances of Tahitian vanilla, toasted nutmeg and cinnamon with blackberry reduction and plum compote. Full-bodied, the wine's texture is tight-knit, with the oak and fruit essence firmly tied together. This will age gracefully but needs a few more years in bottle to gel together. The wine ends with a long, lingering, complex finish that evolves in the mouth with persistence for more than a minute. The wine spent 22 months in French oak barrels, 50% new. The Apogee will remain food-friendly for years to come; just give it a couple more years in bottle to come around. Bravo! I look forward to revisiting this bottle in a decade.

91 PTS, CELLAR SELECTION

Wine Enthusiast, Sean Sullivan - October 2021

This wine is a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 14% Malbec and 3% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of black and red licorice, graphite, cocoa, cherry and barrel spices lead to palate-coating, creamy-feeling cherry and chocolate flavors. As always with this vineyard, there is a lot of structure behind the wine. Best after 2027.

COMPETITIONS

Santé International Wine & Spirits, 2021

91 pts, Gold