

L'Ecole

N^o 41

2019 Merlot Estate Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole N^o 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of premium Merlot and this estate vineyard blend represents our highest expression of this noble varietal. The elegance and old-world structure of Seven Hills Vineyard adds complexity to the power and minerality of Ferguson Vineyard.

ESTATE VINEYARDS

Ferguson Vineyard 50% - Fractured basalt

Seven Hills Vineyard 50% - Wind-blown loess

These prestigious vineyards are Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

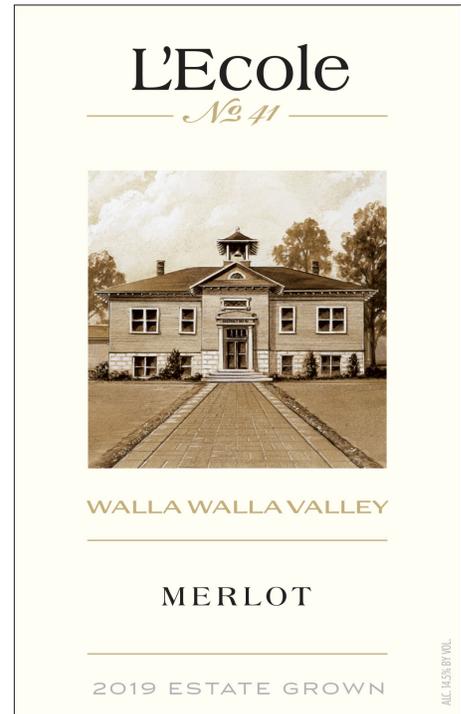
- An overall mild growing season and challenging harvest have nonetheless delivered a high-quality vintage for L'Ecole.
- A cold and snowy February/March delayed field pruning, resulting in budbreak late April to early May. A warm May accelerated canopy growth and the onset of bloom.
- Cooler July temperatures moderated heat unit accumulation with veraison delayed 7 to 10 days from normal. August brought customary warm weather, with only a few heat spikes over 100°F.
- A warm early September initiated a normal harvest, which was slowed due to slightly rainy and cooler conditions. A light frost at the end of September along with a forecast of more freezing weather on its way accelerated picking, with 60% of our fruit harvested the first two weeks of October.
- Freezing weather quickly brought the season to a close the second week of October.
- With delight, we are seeing beautiful and elegant wines, with high natural acidity, and impressive structure.

WINEMAKING

- Over 36 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence.
- Each lot was hand harvested ripe and gently crushed into 1.5 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 entirely to small French oak barrels, 35% new, and was barrel-aged for 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

This expressive Merlot reveals opulent aromatics of dark cherry and blackberry, fresh Mission figs, savory cedar, and coffee bean, completed with rose and a touch of sage. Its ripe rich texture is laced with delicate graphite notes, along with dark chocolate and plum, grounded with ample polished tannins. Altogether well-structured, it finishes fresh and focused.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 15, 2019
Average tons/acre	3.3
Average Brix	24.5°
Average pH	3.34
Average Acidity	6.3 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	84% MERLOT, 12% CABERNET FRANC, 4% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
pH	3.72
Total Acidity	6.0 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	MARCH 23, 2021
Release	SPRING 2022
Case Production	1,030