

# L'Ecole

No 41

## 2020 Frenchtown - Red Wine Columbia Valley

### WINEMAKER COMMENT

Frenchtown, Walla Walla Valley's first settlement, was founded by French Canadians in the early 1800s. A thriving viticulture and wine making community was established in the Valley in the 1860s. This Frenchtown wine salutes these pioneers. With the highest quality in mind, this blend offers exceptional value for its price.

### VINTAGE

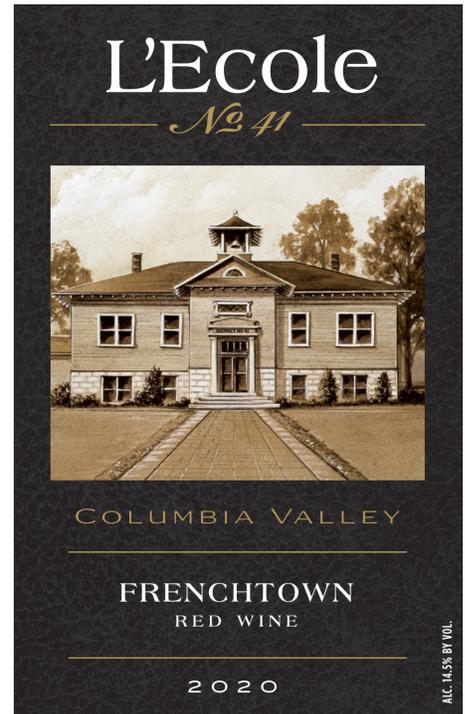
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind during June bloom, which resulted in unusually low yields.
- Heat accumulation tracked the long-term average with veraison on-time in early August.
- Harvest had just started when smoke from CA/OR wildfires first blew west into the Pacific Ocean then swept eastward into the Columbia River basin, and was present from the second week of September for eight days. The stage of fruit maturity, exposure timing, and the nature of this (older) smoke resulted in a minor, negligible impact. However, diffused sunlight and cooler temperatures stalled fruit maturation, extending harvest timing into October.
- The long growing season combined with low yields resulted in wonderful balance, length, and aromatics in the whites, and concentrated flavor, color, texture, and structure in the reds.

### WINEMAKING

- Over 37 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence.
- The wine was aged 9 months in primarily neutral oak barrels, then bottle aged 6 additional months prior to release.

### TASTING NOTES

*An excellent Frenchtown vintage showing a bright, fresh fruit-forward profile of boysenberry, blueberry, blackberry, and plum accented by violets and mint. This easy-drinking wine has vivid fruit and spice flavors framed by a medium-bodied structure, leading to a balanced and lengthy finish.*



### WINE DATA

#### Composition

<b>80% BORDEAUX</b>	<b>20% RHONE</b>
41% Merlot	9% Syrah
15% Cabernet Sauvignon	7% Grenache
15% Cabernet Franc	4% Mourvèdre
5% Petit Verdot	
4% Malbec	

*pH* 3.76

*Total Acidity* 5.7 g/L

*Alcohol* 14.5%

*Bottling Date* AUGUST 10-12, 2021

*Release* SPRING 2022

*Case Production* 4,000