

# L'Ecole

## No. 41

### 2020 Syrah Columbia Valley

#### WINEMAKER COMMENT

Washington State's winegrowing region is ideally suited to maximize the full expression of Syrah. Spicy, rich, and complex, with soft tannins and bright acidity, our Columbia Valley Syrah is the perfect food pairing wine.

#### VINEYARDS

Stone Tree, Candy Mountain, Bacchus, Estate Seven Hills

#### VINTAGE

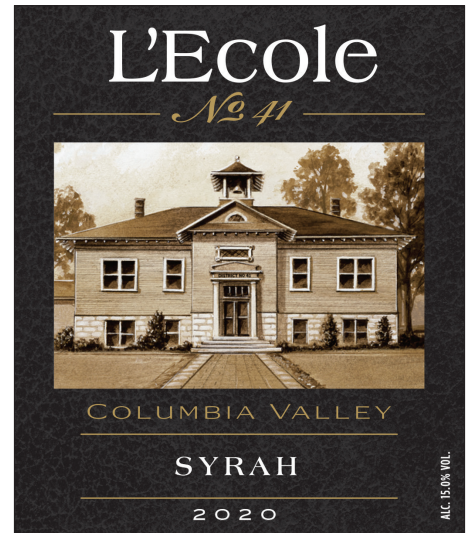
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind during June bloom, which resulted in unusually low yields.
- Heat accumulation tracked the long-term average with veraison on time in early August.
- Older CA/OR wildfire smoke briefly settled into the Columbia Basin the 2nd week of September. Fortunately, the impact on our grapes was negligible since most of the fruit was at a later stage of maturity, combined with the nature of it being older smoke. The diffused sunlight and cooler temperatures slowed ripening, extending harvest well 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

- 40 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 was utilized throughout the entire winemaking process. Stems were added back into 10% of the ferment to help build a smooth tannin profile and stabilize the color.
- The wine was cleanly racked to small oak barrels, mostly neutral, and barrel aged for 18 months.

#### TASTING NOTES

*This full-bodied Syrah shows robust and pronounced aromas of blackberry, black currant, violets, black peppercorn, Herbes de Provence, and licorice. Spiced dark fruit flavors reveal themselves on the palate finishing with a mouth-filling, savory richness.*



#### HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 3, 2020
Average Brix	25.1°
Average pH	3.45
Average Acidity	5.3 g/L

#### WINE DATA

Composition	82% SYRAH, 16% GRENACHE, 2% MOURVÈDRE
pH	3.73
Total Acidity	5.5 g/L
Alcohol	15.0%
Bottling Dates	FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 2022
Release	SPRING 2023
Case Production	2,650